

the chronicle

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Sisters are jailed over child cruelty



Jailed – Coral Stringer Assault – Lisa Stringer

Two sisters who won a community award worth £25,000 for a Walsall primary school have been jailed for four years each for admitting child cruelty and assaulting two children.

Coral Stringer, aged 49, and her sister, Lisa Stringer, 38, of Arundel Street, Walsall, carried out "systematic" abuse against the two children including slapping and punching for misdemeanours as slight as leaving a door shut or open.

One of the attacks was filmed on a mobile phone, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told this week.

Both sisters admitted two charges of actual bodily harm, for which they were sentenced to 18 months each and for each offence, and two charges of child cruelty, for which they were jailed for four years on one offence and three years on the other. All sentences will be served concurrently.

The sisters were awarded the £25,000, which went to Harden Primary School, in 2006 as part of a community awards scheme. They were granted the award after campaigning for financial help for the school. The abuse charges brought against them were in no way linked to the school.

Miss Sally Hancox, prosecuting, said the younger of the victims described how they had "suffered regular slapping, punching and hair pulling" at the hands of Coral and Lisa Stringer. Miss Hancox said: "They were routinely punched by Coral. Lisa was described as someone who would back Coral up."

She went on to say Coral had a borderline personality disorder, and her temper would flare when she did not take her medication.

One of the attacks was filmed on a mobile phone and was played to the judge at a previous hearing, showing the victim screaming in pain.

Mr Anwar Ramzan, defending Lisa Stringer, said she had had a dysfunctional childhood herself.

Miss Wendy Miller, defending Coral Stringer, said she had suffered mental health problems since her mother's death in the 1990s.

Search on to find winner of unclaimed lottery prize

The search is on to find the winner of a £127,000 lottery prize bought in Walsall. The ticketholder matched five numbers and the bonus ball in the Lotto draw on January 8. The lucky winner has until 5.30pm on July 7 to come forward to claim their prize – plus the interest it has generated.

The National Lottery revealed the unclaimed prize had come from a ticket bought from a Walsall shop. The winning numbers on January 8 were 13, 14, 32, 35, 41, 47 and the bonus ball was 46.

Yobs damage parked vehicles in repeat attack

10 CARS ON ONE STREET VANDALISED

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Ten cars have been vandalised by yobs in the same Willenhall street – the fourth such attack in as many years.

Windows were smashed and wing mirrors ripped off cars parked outside homes in Rose Hill Gardens. Devastated residents said they were sick of the "idiots" causing all the damage which they were having to pick up the bill for.

The side window of John Walton's Renault was smashed during the attack at the weekend. And Alan Parker, aged 74, who lives in St Giles Court, had the wing mirror of his light blue Peugeot 306 snapped off.

The car had previously had paint stripper poured over it, he said.

"My car has been targeted four times now," Mr Parker said. "It has been a regular occurrence over the past four years. My car and some others were targeted on Saturday night."

"My side wing mirror was torn off."

"We think it's youngsters doing this. Thankfully they didn't target my other car which was parked nearby."

Scratched

Over the years, yobs have scratched paintwork and smashed the windows of cars parked in the street.

Mr Parker added that repairs to his vehicles because of the attacks over the years has run up a bill of more than £1,000.

The retired technical sales manager, continued: "We need CCTV or perhaps a concierge to stop these idiots doing this to our property."

"We have signed petitions but nothing has been done."

"We feel like we are being ignored."

West Midlands Police spokesman Louise Allen confirmed there were 10 reports of criminal damage to vehicles.

And Sergeant Leigh Hale, from Willenhall police station, said: "This type of incident is very unusual in this area. We are making every concerted effort to find those responsible."

"The neighbourhood team which covers Rose Hill and St Giles Road now has ownership of this incident."

"They will be contacting residents to ensure that we have all available information to help us with our enquiries."

"And they will ensure that we can reduce the chance of this happening again," he added.

Dads can get on the ball



Toddlers, staff and parents get ready for the Festival of Football.

Children's centres across Walsall are welcoming dads and toddlers to a kick about with a mystery Walsall player.

The Festival of Football will be held, on January 27, from 3.30pm until 5.30pm, at Blakenall Community Centre, Blakenall Row.

Pelsall Children's Centre, Greenfield Children's Centre and Edgar Stammers Children's Centre, will all be at the one-off event which has been organised by Mark Wilkes from Walsall football club.

He will be with one of the team's

strikers, who will remain a mystery until kick off on Thursday.

Sarah Littleton, of Pelsall Children's Centre, said: "It's a great way of helping dads engage in physical activities with their children and others from groups across the area."

"We are hoping the football theme will encourage fathers to join in while helping to promote the centres." Admission is free and the session is suitable for children under five.

For more information contact Sioux on 01922 476698.

Bus-t up on passengers peering in

A row over privacy has erupted between families and bus company National Express – amid complaints nosy passengers regularly looked through their windows as the service trundled along the narrow streets of the estate off Wolverhampton Road.

Single deckers could now be used as part of plans to revive the 908 service through Pelsall Wood in Walsall, which was axed last year.

Families complained passengers regularly looked through their windows as the service trundled along the narrow streets of the estate off Wolverhampton Road.

But a campaign was launched by angry users who said they faced an uphill struggle without the bus, and submitted a 200-name petition in favour of bringing it back.

Pelsall councillor Marco Longhi, who has been at the centre of talks with the bus operator, said: "Some felt they had a loss of privacy due to the double decker buses."

"National Express has agreed to use single decker buses and we are re-consulting on this. Hopefully we have found a compromise."

"What we are looking to achieve is a situation where we are dealing with the concerns of the people who object in the first instance but help those people who rely on that service."

National Express West Midlands is proposing to reinstate the service through the estate until 5.21pm each day.

A consultation evening to discuss the proposal at the Leyland Croft community centre on January 28 at 5pm.

Nick Newcombe, area manager for National Express in Walsall, said a decision on the service arrangements would be made after the public meeting.

Councillor Gary Clarke, Mayor of Walsall and former chairman of transport authority Centro, said: "This is the first time I've heard of buses changing because of privacy. Unfortunately you can't really avoid people looking around when they are in the top of a bus, and to me it was all a bit out of proportion."

Stray steeds stop soccer

A football match was cancelled in Walsall due to Stray horses which have been causing havoc in the region cropping up on playing fields nine miles away.

In Moxley, a group of up to six horses have been going on late-night walkabouts. It meant the Moxley Rangers Football Club U15s' match at the Great Bridge Road playing fields had to be cancelled by the referee on safety grounds on Sunday due to the holes left by the hooves.

Residents in Charnwood Close and neighbouring streets have been waking up to find their gardens and roads littered with manure.

The group of horses were this week grazing on the football pitches at Great Bridge Road playing fields.

Moxley Rangers club secretary Jayne Kingdon said: "The lads were a bit baffled because they couldn't play and there is a lot of mess on the field as well. We're hoping it will be sorted out in time for the next home game in two weeks' time."

Darlington South ward representative Chris Bott said street cleansing staff visited the estate last week to clean up and would be called out again.

Walsall Council has also pegged a notice at the playing fields.

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Rodents' mess in balti dish

A restaurant in Walsall has been closed after mouse droppings were discovered throughout the premises, including a balti bowl and pizza box.

Environmental health officers also found three dead mice at Hajeez, in Caldmore, Walsall, after inspecting the business last week.

A temporary closure notice was issued on the restaurant and taken away at Caldmore Green and a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Order was granted by Walsall magistrates which means the premises must remain shut until cleaned and rid of rodents.

The notice was served on business operator Wassim Rabbi, who did not appear at the court.

Disregard

Walsall Council officers visited the building on Wednesday, January 19, after a tip-off, the magistrates were told. Mice droppings were found in the freezer, under the counter and on the till. They were also inside boxes and on cooking equipment.

Principal environmental officer Neil Harris said dead mice were in the storage area as a there was "extensive" evidence of rodent activity upstairs and downstairs.

"We received a complaint about that there were mice in the premises. It became apparent there was an extensive mice infestation and a complete disregard for the health of the public."

Mr Harris said the premises had been visited again and there was no sign of action to clean up. A notice informing the public of the immediate closure had also been removed.

Magistrates agreed to the order so the restaurant can only open again after being checked by environmental health staff.

£700 bill for man in rage

A man who punched a hole in a toilet wall and started smashing the window of a car in Aldridge was ordered to pay a total of £700 in a fine, compensation and costs.

Richard Parsons, aged 28, of The Walmers, Aldridge, appeared at Walsall Magistrates' Court last week.

He admitted resisting a constable in the execution of her duty and two counts of criminal damage.

Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said Parsons punched the wall in a toilet at the R1 bar in Anchor Parade when he was drunk, and after he was ejected he caused damage to a Peugeot 106 on January 9.

Chris Loach, defending, said the father-of-three was "embarrassed and ashamed" of his behaviour, and has personally apologised to everyone involved.

He said Parsons, an electrician, was having financial problems.

£2,500 aid fund

College staff and students in Walsall have raised more than £2,500 for the BBC's Children in Need. November coffee and music mornings at the Hawbus Road campus, in Leamore, raised £1,593.8 and the Whitehall Road campus, in Caldmore, raised £912.

Regret at EMA axe

A Walsall MP has spoken of her disappointment after Labour failed in the Commons to reverse plans to scrap an allowance helping youngsters in further education.

A petition against plans to withdraw Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), signed by 402 Walsall College students, had been presented to parliament by Walsall South's Valerie Vaz. But the decision

to axe the allowance went through with a majority for the Coalition Government of 59 votes.

The means-tested allowance of up to £30 a week helps with study costs for young people staying on in further education.

Mrs Vaz said students had told her that without EMA, they would not be able to afford books, bus passes and equipment.

Park patrols increase

Police are going to step up patrols in a Walsall park following reports of anti-social behaviour.

Youths are said to be congregating and causing a nuisance and minor damage in ABC Park, Bentley.

West Midlands Police said they would be stepping up patrols to tackle the problems, and would also be focussing on Lime Avenue and Poplar Avenue. Sgt Steve Davis said there

had also been reports of bad behaviour on land near Western Avenue.

"We have received calls that young people are congregating on land adjacent to Western Avenue and are causing a general nuisance to the local community, drinking alcohol and leaving litter behind," he said.

Police will also be keeping an eye on inconsiderate and dangerous parking around schools.

Obesity concern in Year 6

More than 1,000 primary school children in Walsall are officially classed as obese, a report found.

A further 1,816 youngsters in the borough's primaries are overweight.

More than 340 – or 10.6 per cent – of reception age children are obese, new figures for 2009-10 show. They also reveal that 21.6 per cent of 10-year-old pupils in Year 6 are obese, meaning their weight poses a serious risk to their health.

The number of reception children who are overweight is 726, or 22.5 per cent.

The number of Year 6 pupils who are classed as overweight is 1,090, or 35.5 per cent.

A report to Walsall Council's children and young people's department reads: "Nationally, in 2008, around one in six boys and girls, aged two to 15, were classed as obese, and around one in three were overweight or obese. This is an increase since 1995 when one in eight were obese and one in four were overweight or obese."

"The proportions of children in Walsall classed as overweight and obese in reception class have been consistently below regional and national levels. However, Walsall Year 6 overweight and obesity levels are higher than regional and national levels."

The report continues: "There is a strong link between deprivation and the risk of becoming obese."

Hundreds aid 2011 budget

More than 550 people have had their say on the council budget in Walsall, which will see millions pounds shaved off as council bosses try to save £65 million over three years.

Residents have given their thoughts on the proposed 2011-12 budget, which will be set on February 24.

Children's services is the area where most people would like to see a funding increase, with planning and building control highlighted as the department most people could see a decrease.

Residents said they also wanted to see money spent on regenerating derelict buildings and empty shops.

A report says: "Effective, reliable, cheap and clean public transport and easy access to car parking are recurring themes. Highway maintenance is raised as in need of improvement."

Search for louts in gravestones attack

Thugs have vandalised gravestones in a cemetery in Bentley.

Police are appealing for witnesses after three gravestones were damaged at Hopyard Road, Bentley, between Sunday, August 1 and August 9. Sgt Leigh Hale said: "The Bentley neighbourhood police team are making enquiries into this and have increased reassurance patrols around the cemetery."

Anyone with information can call Willenhall police on 0345 113 5000.

Bosses queue to aid £9m pioneer college

More than 20 businesses have pledged their support to the UK's first £9.5 million University Technical College which opens in Walsall in September.

The UTC in Vernon Way, Bloxwich, will cater for the builders, technicians and engineers of the future, taking in 14 to 19-year-olds keen to develop a career in industry.

Pupils from schools across the West Midlands are invited to transfer to the college, where they will be able to continue GCSEs as well as study vocational subjects and pick up skills needed for work.

Apprenticeships and specialist training will also be given.

The college will take over the site of Sneyd Community School which will close at the end of the 2011 summer term. The buildings will then undergo a major refurbishment.

About 20 businesses and groups have been involved in designing the curriculum which is yet to be finalised before designers can transform the buildings.

There are also plans for workers and industry experts to support teachers, and for businesses to offer apprenticeships.

Registered

Additional firms have registered an interest in supporting the government-funded UTC from National Grid to Walsall-based Chamberlin and Hill.

The owner of Tipton family firm RA Wire Erosion, Richard Bruce, aged 64, said he was anxious to hand down his experience to the next generation.

He said: "My working life is coming to an end. I've got 30 years' experience in wire erosion and want to give something back. It's just finding out where we can fit in. I don't know if they want hands-on experience or students to come here for work experience."

Engineering design consultants Houghton Design Ltd, of Stafford, have also been involved in the UTC.

Managing director David Mills said: "We approached them because we have been finding it difficult to find mechanical designers."

"We have found the local universities are not giving us what we are looking for."

"We are looking at how we can fit in, perhaps through apprenticeships."

A total of 240 students are expected to enrol this year, with 28 having already registered an interest.

Victorian sisters' treasure



The opening page, with a dedication from Lottie to her sister Emily.



A sketch of Emily done in July 1904



Christmas wishes from 1901.

Its dog-eared cover gives no hint to the treasures inside, but stunning oil paintings, poems and even a recipe for love cake are to be found within the pages of this Victorian journal.

The book is believed to have been an 18th birthday gift to Emily Darby, the daughter of a Walsall saddlemaker, and for the next 20 years her loved ones filled the pages with beautiful sketches, poems and paintings in true Victorian splendour.

After a spell in Sheffield, the book is now back at Walsall Local History Centre, Essex Street, and the detective work has started to find out more.

The first page, dated December 12, 1900, includes the dedication: "To my dear little Emily, with love and best wishes for a happy birthday, from Lottie."

The dedication is followed by a handwritten note reading: "Be good sweet maid and let who will be clever. Do noble deeds, not dream them all day, and so make life and that vast forever, one grand sweet song."

The journal also includes oil paint-

ings, including one of dogs and cats dated 1919, sketches of Emily, water-colour illustrations, cartoons, recipes and poems.

Local History Centre archivist Paul Ford said: "It was sent down from Sheffield Archives after they noticed some of our place names in the book including Walsall and Cheslyn Hay."

"There are no surnames throughout, but there was mention of siblings Emily, Lottie and a brother Garrett. The 1901 census showed Emily, Charlotte and Garrett Darby living at 39 Queen Street, Walsall, the children of saddlemaker Daniel Darby."

"The book itself appears to be a birthday present and Emily has given it to the people close to her who have then filled it in with paintings, poems and notes."

Mr Ford said he did not know any more about the book or how it came to be in Sheffield and would love to find out more.

"If anyone recognises it or any of the names, we'd love it if they got in touch with us," he added.

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Business failures top 1,000

More than 1,000 companies collapsed in Walsall in just 12 months as the borough continues to lag behind the rest of the country in business recovery.

In 2009, there were 720 "business births", but 1,005 "business deaths".

Data from 2008 shows Walsall had a new business start-up rate of just 37.9 per cent – equal to 765 new firms – compared to 47.6 per

cent for the West Midlands and 57.2 per cent for England.

A report outlining the problems has now been submitted to Walsall Council and measures have been put in place to keep fledgling businesses afloat.

In 2008, there were 7,500 active businesses in the borough, which is equal to about 50 companies for every 1,000 of the working population. This again

falls short of the regional level of 58 businesses per 1,000 population.

Walsall needs more than 1,200 additional companies to be meeting the regional levels and more than 2,000 to hit the national targets.

A report to councillors said: "Walsall will continue to lag behind if new start-up and survival rates don't improve."

School dinners up 5p

The price of school meals is to rise for thousands of children in Walsall.

From next Monday, January 31, meals at primary schools will increase from £1.80 to £1.85. Food at secondary schools will also be subject to rises.

Walsall Council head of leisure and community health Chris Holliday said the increase represented an increase in food costs.

"Around 8,000 youngsters a day

enjoy school meals which represents around 33 per cent of children on roll at primary and secondary schools.

"Numbers have risen by about two per cent this year, for both free and paid-for meals.

"It is too early to say if this small increase will affect take-up, but for £1.85 pupils receive a tasty, nutritionally balanced meal. Students in secondary schools also have the option to buy their food from a cafeteria."

Stalwart of the Bench dies aged 82

A grandmother who gave up decades of her life to serve Walsall as a magistrate, hospital volunteer and church supporter has died at the age of 82.

Madge Partridge, whose husband of 62 years, David, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to the community, was described as a "well-respected lady".

Mrs Partridge was a magistrate for 27 years and a volunteer at Walsall Manor Hospital. She also worked for the Red Cross for more than 25 years and was patron of Walsall Breast Cancer Group.

The mother of four died at her home in Aldridge on January 13, a year after suffering a stroke.

Memorial

Mr Partridge, aged 90, who has organised the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal across Aldridge and Brownhills for the past 40 years, said his wife had been looked after by "wonderful" nurses and carers.

Madge Partridge held positions in a number of church groups and charities, including the Walsall Deanery Synod.

Mrs Partridge, who met her husband when they both worked at Gillespie Solicitors in Walsall, was a non-executive director and vice-chairwoman of Walsall Manor Hospitals NHS Trust.

She had also been chairwoman of the Aldridge and Brownhills magistrates' bench.

Mr Partridge added: "Whatever group or organisation she was involved in, Madge would roll up her sleeves and do what needed to be done. She was a well-respected lady who will be sorely missed."

The family is planning to hold a memorial service for a date to be set in March.

Alert on phone robbers

Schools in Walsall are being put on high alert after the number of mobile phone robberies from youngsters in a week rose to eight.

Police are to visit schools to issue warnings to teenagers that thieves are on the prowl after another two mobile phone robberies, which officers are linking.

Six robberies happened on last Wednesday, January 12.

A 13-year-old girl was stopped by a youth on Monday, January 17, in Walsall Arboretum who asked her the time. When she took out her phone, he grabbed it and ran off.

The thief is described as Asian, 16 to 17, 5ft 6in, wearing a grey and purple hoodie and grey track suit bottoms.

A 13-year-old boy was stopped in Rowley Street, Chucky, on January 16, by a similarly described male who asked to use his phone, then ran off with it.

Sgt Bob Harris said officers will be visiting schools in Walsall to warn youngsters of the danger.

Patrolling for louts

Police are to step up patrols in a Walsall park following reports of anti-social behaviour by youths who congregate and cause nuisance and minor damage.

West Midlands Police said they were tackling the problems in in ABC Park, Bentley, along with Poplar Avenue and Lime Avenue.

Sgt Steve Davis said: "We have received calls that young people are congregating on land adjacent to Western Avenue and are causing a general nuisance to the local community, drinking alcohol and leaving litter behind," he said.

Officers will also keep an eye on inconsiderate parking around schools.

Inquiry clears leader of Lib Dems over poll

The leader of the Liberal Democrats in Walsall has been cleared of wrongdoing following allegations he misused council resources in the run-up to last year's elections.

But the Standards Board for England said Councillor Ian Shires had not been "particularly scrupulous" in his actions. Councillor Shires, who represents Willenhall North, distributed a borough council-funded questionnaire.

This was sent in the run-up to the 2010 elections and the results were reported in Lib Dem campaign leaflets.

The Standards Board for England received the complaint last July and an ethical standards officer launched an investigation.

The board has now concluded the councillor did not breach the code of conduct.

Councillor Shires said he was pleased with the outcome.

"It has been a nightmare. It is something I knew from the start was not a breach," he said.

The councillor was alleged to have used council resources improperly for party political purposes.

Experience

He was accused of using a council-funded satisfaction survey asking residents about their experience of the work undertaken by his political group and then reporting the results positively in the Liberal Democrat Focus newsletter.

The ethical standards officer recommended Walsall Council now provides clear guidelines to its members on the process for commissioning surveys by political groups the council pays for.

The Standards Board report stated: "Although he did not conclude Councillor Shires had breached any part of the code of conduct, the ethical standards officer drew his attention to further guidance which states members should be particularly scrupulous about the use of authority resources when elections are pending."

"The ethical standards officer did not consider that Councillor Shires, who had not taken advice until challenged by council officers, had been 'particularly scrupulous' given the impending elections."

Plea from vet on injured cat



Angela Sturch from Vets for Pets is looking for the owner of a cat hit by a car.

A Walsall vet's is hoping to find the owner of a cat which was rescued by staff after being hit by a car. Vets 4 Pets, in Lichfield Road, Shelfield, was alerted to the January 17 accident in nearby Mill Road by one of their clients.

They rushed to rescue the black cat, which had suffered a fractured pelvis. The pet, which has a maroon collar and is thought to be a year old, has since been given pain relief for the injury but staff are anxious to find its owners.

Vet Sally Potter said: "A client came into the surgery and reported that a man was in distress because he had hit a cat with his car."

"It had no microchip but we suspect it has an owner because it was wearing a collar."

Anyone with information can call 01922 682520.

Batter by far than the dole



Jazz and Jasbir Johal celebrate a five star award in Scores on the Doors

A former Rover worker from Willenhall has been cooking up success after risking a complete career change to open his own fish and chip shop.

Jaswinder Johal, known as Jazz, of Willenhall, in Lake Street, proving a hit with customers and now gaining a five-star award in Dudley Council's Scores on the Doors scheme.

The award is given to restaurants and takeaways found to have high standards of cleanliness and hygiene in a surprise inspection of the shop, which Jazz runs with his wife Jasbir.

Roof repairs on way for church

Thousands of pounds of desperately needed work to repair a Walsall church roof is finally under way after months of the congregation being rained on.

Darlaston Methodist Church, in Slater Street, has been saving up its funds after they were drained due to subsidence, and the work is set to be completed in the coming weeks.

The church, which is coming to the end of its centenary year, has been holding jumble sales and fairs to boost its coffers.

Secretary of the church council, David Butler, said: "We have got a problem at the moment with subsistence, which drained the church funds, but we have got the funds at the moment to fix the roof."

"We have a contractor who has assisted with the church and has agreed to do it for us for less than £5,000."

Thousands of pounds are also urgently needed for repairs at the St Francis of Assisi RC Church in Shelfield, which has a leaky roof, and an "antiquated" heating system.

Central Hall Methodist Church in Ablewell Street also has a fundraising drive for £70,000 to repair and replace the pipes on its organ.

Handy new guide for town shoppers

Shoppers can get help on finding the right store in Walsall with a new guide.

More than 350 shops are included on the map which shows what businesses offer.

Around 30,000 copies have been printed as part of the project, backed by the town's stores. They are available from shops, Walsall library, in Lichfield Street and the Civic Centre in Darwall Street.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "A guide can really help people find the place they are looking for and discover some hidden gems."

"We have four indoor shopping centres in Walsall and a whole range of shops."

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Firms are taking on new staff

Two Walsall firms are taking on staff in ambitious expansion plans.

Telecommunications firm Cloud Net in Birchills is doubling its workforce to 16 after its customer base quadrupled in less than two years.

Five new jobs are up for grabs at Kepston Ltd, which is extending its factory near Aldridge to serve the aerospace, defence and motor sport industries.

Cloud Net, at the Enterprise Hub, Green Lane, supplies phones, internet services and switchboards to small and medium sized businesses.

Founder and chairman David Hill, of Aldridge, set up the company less than two years ago and since January 2010 it has attracted more than 200 customers.

"Cloud Net is signing up 60 new customers a month and we have grown our technical and sales teams to ensure that we provide top quality service."

Kepston Ltd, in Coppice Lane, Walsall Wood, has been granted permission by Walsall Council to extend its factory.

The company specialises in high-precision jig grinding, universal grinding, milling and turning, mainly for the aerospace, defence and motor sport industries. Chief executive Brent Millage said: "The firm also has a factory in Western Way, Wednesbury."

Coffee shop pours it on

A hotel coffee shop is helping a Walsall charity with a cut of its sales over this week.

The Starbuck's branch based in the Village Hotel in Walsall will donate 20 per cent of its cappuccino sales between January 24 and 30 to Walsall Hospice.

James Lynch, store manager at Starbuck's in the Tempus Drive hotel, said he came up with idea so the business could do its bit for charity.

Hospice fundraiser Cheryl Bradburne has been to the hotel to thank them for the move.

Mr Lynch said: "We wanted to do something for a charity that is close to home and one that the hotel has done a few things for in the past."

"Cheryl was absolutely ecstatic when we told her."

The £5.5 million hospice is being finished off in Goscoe Lane and is due to open in March.

Camera is fitted

A Domehawk camera has been installed by police in a Walsall neighbourhood to tackle anti-social behaviour. The new camera is portable and will be moved around Delves, but is expected to be used around West Bromwich Road and Walstead Road after reports of youngsters causing a nuisance.

Murder mystery

A murder mystery evening is on at Walsall Leather Museum on February 18. The £15 event will be held at the Littleton Street West venue at 7.30pm.

Desk-sharing calls

Staff at Walsall Council may have to share desks to reduce office space and ultimately close buildings.

Allowing more staff to work from home is also being considered, while the One Stop service in the Civic Centre could be expanded to cope with more inquiries.

More than 100 staff are being considered for voluntary redundancy and 421 posts are being scrapped.

Councillor Des Pitt, chairman of the regeneration scrutiny panel, said: "In many departments it's rare to have everyone in at the same time. If it's a team of 10, you could get away with having seven desks."

Councillor Diane Coughlan said: "If someone is on holiday or out at meetings there will be desks available – but if the whole team is in, who decides on priority seating?"

Brothel charge bail

A woman has been arrested on suspicion of running a brothel in Walsall – the second case of its kind in less than a week.

Officers swooped at an address in Ridgeway Court, Bentley, following tip-offs. The 51-year-old was arrested and released on bail further pending inquiries.

Police swooped on Wednesday, January 19, following complaints

that the premises were possibly being used as a brothel.

A 50-year-old man was arrested during the previous week on allegations of running a brothel in Cannon Street, Coalpool, Walsall. He was also bailed.

Pc Stu James from Bentley police team, said: "We would like to thank the local community for providing the information."

Tory bias claim on grit bins

Walsall Council has been accused of favouring affluent Tory areas after it emerged that some wards have almost 10 times more grit bins than others.

Councillor Pete Smith, Democratic Labour member for Blakenall, found that Peasey Park Farm has 28 of the yellow containers and Streety 22, compared with four in Blakenall and three in Birchills-Leamore.

But transport chief Councillor Tom Ansell pointed out that some suburbs had more hills and needed more bins.

The figures, released after a question tabled by Councillor Smith to the Tory-run authority, also showed Aldridge Central and South ward with 14 bins, Aldridge North and Walsall Wood with 18, and Palfrey and Bloxwich West three each.

Topography

Councillor Smith said he had numerous complaints about icy side roads and pavements during the cold snap. Grit became hot property when temperatures plummeted last month, with several reports of theft.

Councillor Smith said: "As I suspected, the Blakenall ward has one of the lowest number of grit bins in the borough – only four to cover an area that consists of 2,500 households."

"I do wonder if it's coincidence that the majority of the grit boxes are in Conservative wards."

Councillor Ansell said: "The higher number of bins in the east of the borough is entirely to be expected given the topography of the area and the steep hills in these wards."

Firm swoops for £6m estate

A Walsall industrial park has been sold for more than £6 million.

The Maybrook Road Industrial Estate, in Brownhills, has been snapped up by Highcross, a commercial property investment company.

The huge estate comprises 28 industrial units, only one of which is empty.

Companies including Heathyards Engineering, metal firm DK Cooper and window business Arch Wright are all based there.

The industrial estate, two miles from junction 6 of the M6 Toll, was bought from Surrey-based Croudace Properties, which has owned the site for four decades.

Highcross asset manager Joe Curlett said: "Brownhills has a very limited supply of similar industrial buildings, which has resulted in good levels of occupier retention at the estate."

Shield of spikes to deter shop raiders

Supermarket bosses have applied for planning permission to install spikes on the rear walls to deter trespassers.

Morrisons, in Anchor Road, Aldridge, has submitted an application to Walsall Council to install black anti-scaling "cacti" around the store's back yard and across the top of the gates.

Parking meters for 19 roads in town centre

On-street parking charges in Walsall town centre will be in force by spring, the town's transport chief announced. Pay and display charges are to be introduced in 19 streets with the aim of bringing in £100,000 over the next three years.

Fifty parking meters will be installed, with charges of 20p for 10 minutes, with a maximum stay of two hours. A consultation was carried out, inviting members of the public to comment on the plans, and the results are now being examined by officers at Walsall Council.

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Laura looks to royal date



Laura Hucker, aged 23, promotes the events at Brownhills Memorial Hall

A community hall is flying the flag for events including a celebration of the forthcoming royal wedding on April 29.

Brownhills Memorial Hall, Lichfield Road, Brownhills, has quizzes, dances, comedians, children's fun days and zumba classes. Singing acts will celebrate Prince William and Kate Middleton's 29th marriage.

The charity, which has eight volunteers, is urging people to take advantage of the new activities on offer.

Committee member Laura Hucker said: "We didn't have so many events last year. This is our new programme. It's packed with activities."

"We have a skittles night, vocal duos and soloists on the weekend of the royal wedding, comedians, Motown and soul nights, children's entertainment, a brass band and zumba classes."

"We are trying to encourage a little bit more support for the charity by people using Brownhills Memorial Hall. It tends to be the same people coming to the events. We are self-funded so need the support."

For details, call 01543 372148, email brownhillsmemorialhall@yahoo.co.uk or check Facebook and Twitter.

They have to consider any objections which could lead to the scheme being amended.

The council's transport chief, Councillor Tom Ansell, said plans were going ahead and the introduction of charges were expected to be ready by Easter.

"They have to be advertised, but should all be cleared and ready to go ahead within two to three months."

Ablewell Street, Hatherton Street and Freer Street are among those included in the proposals.

The charges come as the cash-strapped Tory council battles to save £65 million over the next three years.

Opposition

Some traders and opposition councillors have criticised on-street parking charges, saying they could deter shoppers from coming to the town.

But council chiefs say they are the last town in the area to introduce the on-street fees.

The charges will follow on from the controversial Sunday parking costs which were introduced more than a year ago.

In just under 12 months, they generated £25,000 for council coffers.

They came into force in September 2009, with the authority insisting that all money went towards maintenance costs.

Last month it emerged that Government guidance encouraging councils to impose higher parking charges was being scrapped as part of a pledge to end the "war on the motorist".

Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles said that councils could "price parking spaces competitively" so that motorists would still be attracted into town centres.

Councillor Ansell said that the authority would reduce charges wherever possible.

Janet on lookout for purls



Janet Cook, of Knit and Natter, at the group's gospel hall venue in Walsall.

Knitters who like a natter have moved home after five years – and are appealing for others to join them.

The Knit and Natter group now meets back at Caldmore Evangelical Church in Walsall after transferring from communal rooms in the neighbouring Wood House flats.

The group was set up five years ago by sisters Mavis Downton, aged 75, and Janet Cook, 68, originally in the gospel hall. But then while the church was undergoing renovation work they had to meet elsewhere.

Mrs Cook, of Little London, said:

"We are up to ten members which is very good. The ages range from people in their 40s right up to the oldest who is 90."

"We have now moved back into the church which has quite a nice hall after a long spell in the flats. We enjoy meeting others and we show each other what we have been working on at home."

Newcomers are welcome to join the group, which meets on Thursdays from 11am to 1pm to turn their hands to crafty patterns including clothes and toys.

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Church's £1.2m expansion

A Walsall church that has seen the usage of its community rooms rocket to 2,000 people a month has submitted £1.2 million expansion plans.

Aldridge Parish Church, in The Green, wants to demolish the rectory, church rooms and garage and create a new two-storey building for the large congregation and community to use.

The plans also include eight

homes nearby, which would be put up for sale.

A building fund, launched in June 2009, has already collected more than £300,000 through donations - with £270,000 from a single Sunday collection.

The church rooms, situated about 500ft from the church, are 60 years old and in poor condition. Plans submitted to Walsall Council for consideration say its

usage has grown considerably over the years, from 1,300 monthly users in 2001 to 2,000 people using the premises each month last year.

Playgroups, youth clubs, a history group and lunch clubs all meet there.

The statement said: "Audits have shown that up to 2,000 people use the rooms each month."

Praise as raider jailed

Police have thanked residents in a Walsall neighbourhood for helping to convict two burglars.

Officers have urged the community in Coalpool to keep coming forward to share information with the beat bobbies for the area.

A 20-year-old man was sentenced to three years in prison last week for his part in a burglary on Webster Road in September. A 17-year-old youth also admitted the offence, which involved

a TV, computer and a mobile phone being stolen, and was sentenced to a 12-month rehabilitation order.

Police said residents were "fed up" with criminal activity and gave evidence against the pair.

De Joanne Myatt-Jones said: "We would like to thank the community."

"Without their help and their willingness to give evidence it would have been doubtful that we could have secured a conviction."

Jam-buster delight for A5 families

A £150,000 congestion-busting project to end years of traffic jams on the A5 at Brownhills has been praised by campaigners. Three weeks of roadworks have begun following long delays.

There have been problems since the A5 Watling Street junction with Ogley Hay Road and Chase Road was upgraded ready for the construction of the M6 Toll in 2003.

The new project will see the removal of a traffic light, allowing drivers on the A5 travelling towards Muckley Corner to turn left into Ogley Hay Road. It will be replaced with a give way sign.

The sequence of traffic lights at the crossroads will also be changed to speed up traffic flow. It follows years of calls by residents in the area who have suffered with traffic backed up along the A5 and also side roads leading to the dual carriageway.

Councillor Alan Paul, of Brownhills, said: "I have been complaining to the Highways Agency about the queues ever since the junction was improved. I am pleased to see it has not fallen on deaf ears."

Installed

"The people living in Chase Road in particular face bumper to bumper traffic at peak times due to the phasing of the lights."

The roadworks will include phased lane closures, along with the closure of the left-turn filter road into Chase Road. Work will be carried out between 10pm and 4am and from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

Charlotte Foster, Highways Agency project manager, said: "Our research has shown that removing these lights should improve the flow of traffic at the junction without compromising safety."

Victory for bus protest

A bus company is poised to do a U-turn and restore a service for a Walsall estate after a campaign by passengers.

Hundreds of people expressed dismay when the 908 stopped going through the Pelsall Wood estate, leaving them with an uphill struggle with their shopping bags home from Walsall town centre.

A 230-name petition was submitted and after months of consultation, National Express West Midlands now proposes to reinstate the bus through the estate until 5.21pm each day.

Residents have been invited to a consultation to discuss the proposal at the Leyland Croft community space this Friday, January 28, at 5pm.

Nick Newcombe, area manager for National Express in Walsall, said: "It is National Express West Midlands' intention to review the service arrangements in this part of the route, after the public meeting has been held. It is then that a decision will be made."

Mary McCrank, aged 78, of Oak Road, said she was delighted that there was now dialogue between residents and the bus operator.

Trio face charges

Three men have appeared in court charged in relation to a fracas at a pub in Pelsall, Walsall.

Samuel Bluck, 21, Joshua Bluck, 18, and Grant Logan, were accused of affray and possessing an offensive weapon.

The charges relate to an incident at The Queens, Norton Road, Pelsall, on June 27 last year. Both Blucks, of Peolsford Road, and Logan, of Bush Grove, deny the allegations.

Walsall magistrates adjourned the case until March 1.

Race for Life debuts at town's arboretum

Race for Life, the annual women-only fun run for Cancer Research UK, is coming to Walsall for the first time. It is hoped around 2,500 women will take part in the event at Walsall Arboretum on Sunday, June 26, at 11am.

The Walsall event will be a 5k race and is now available to enter. Paula Young, from Cancer Research UK in the West Midlands, said: "We're really excited and we hope it will help meet the continuing demand for places and enable more women to join and do something amazing."

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Information signs show crime news

Information boards keeping residents updated with the latest crime news in their community are to be installed across Walsall. Twenty-one boards are to go up at prominent places such as supermarkets and post offices.

They will be put around the borough in a pioneering move by West Midlands Police. Morrisons stores in Walsall and Willenhall, Tesco, in Walsall town centre, Asda Bloxwich, North Walsall post office and The Resource Centre, in Coalpool, already have the new boards. They dispense police newsletters and leaflets and also include the details of all local police officers, and will focus on the main concerns in each community.

Over the next few weeks, more will be installed in Willenhall, Darlaston, Aldridge, Bloxwich and Walsall after Pc Neil Gardiner came up with the idea as a "back-to-basics approach" to dealing with the public.

"These boards are a simple but effective tool when it comes to keeping the public informed on policing and crime in their area," he said.

Concerns

"A lot of businesses have worked with us and have been only too happy to install them. We have tried to place them where there is a great footfall of people, ensuring that they reach a large percentage of the community."

"We do have websites, local meetings and we regularly do letter drops within local areas. However, not everyone has access to these and information points are another way we get our message out."

Police across the borough are continuing to come up with new ideas to communicate with the public. As well as several officers posting on Twitter, the force has also opened up a stall at Walsall Market.

The stall is manned by officers who are joined each week by representatives of different organisations such as the council or the National Health Service.

"It's really important that local women ring the date in their calendars now and make a note that some of the venues are different from last year."

"One in three people in the UK will be diagnosed with cancer at some stage in their lives."

"But the good news is that more people are beating the disease than ever before."

"Cancer Research UK's work is at the heart of that progress."

Other Race For Life events will take place at Weston Park, in Staffordshire, West Park, in Wolverhampton, Himley Hall, near Dudley, and Brinton Park, Kidderminster. Thousands of women are also expected to run in Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park.

Cheered

Every year, thousands of women take part in the events across the region, cheered on by their friends and family.

Participants of all ages and fitness levels join together to walk, jog or run 5k or 10k to raise money for Cancer Research UK's life-saving research.

Ms Young added: "By entering the local event now, planning fundraising and then relishing the sense of achievement on the big day, women will have plenty to talk about for months to come."

Since the Race For Life series started in 1994, 4.7 million participants across the UK have raised more than £327 million.

To register, visit www.raceforlife.org or call 0871 641 1111.

Family cook up a great time



At Pineapple Dance Studios with choreographer Arlene Phillips, centre, are Lewis Cook, left, his sister Leah, dad Tim and mum Fiona.

A family from Cheslyn Hay became West End dancers for the day with choreographer Arlene Phillips at London's Pineapple Dance Studios after winning a competition.

Mum Fiona, aged 44, who works for Renault and 39 year old husband Tim Cook, who is a plumber, went with their children Lewis, aged 11, a pupil at Cheslyn Hay High School and Leah, five, who goes to the primary school to the capital.

The family watched Grease in London's West End where they were able to meet some of the cast and then learned a dance routine from the show from Arlene. They will now also feature on Heart breakfast radio this Friday when they will talk about their experience. Mrs Cook said: "My dancing was rubbish, I have two left

feet and Tim was the same but the kids were fabulous."

"We really enjoyed the day, it was fantastic. The highlights were getting to see the Grease musical, meeting the cast and of course spending time with Arlene Phillips."

"Arlene is a lovely lady and she took Leah under her wing for the day. Leah ended up participating as a judge sitting alongside Arlene until it was our turn to dance which is when she joined in with us."

"Leah is a keen ballet dancer and also does tap dancing. As for me and Tim I think we will leave the dancing to the kids." The competition run by McCain and Heart FM is open for another five months. To enter visit www.heart.co.uk or listen to 100.7 FM for more details.

SmartWater clue to burglary loot

The second phase of a crime reduction initiative which aims to combat against theft and burglaries in Walsall is to be rolled out.

Hundreds of Coalpool residents are set to benefit from SmartWater technology, an invisible solution which marks valuables with their own forensic signature that is registered to the owner.

It can only be seen under UV lights used by the police which allows officers to prove the ownership of property. Hundreds of residents in the area have already benefited in the first phase of the scheme but funding provided by Walsall Housing Group and Walsall Partnership has meant more homes will now be protected.

Sgt Jim Nixon said: "Each owner has a unique code which means their property can be identified if it comes into our possession after being stolen."

The first phase of the scheme started last April and this will be the second phase. Over 1,000 homes will benefit. It's something we are rolling out. Officers will be going to second-hand stores to look for property marked with SmartWater."

Date set for closure

Willenhall's doomed leisure centre will close on August 27, council chiefs have decided.

The Bath Street centre will be boarded up, and there are no plans yet for whether it will be bulldozed or transformed for another use.

A report on its future and that of Walsall's five other leisure centres, which could outline plans to shut even more as part of a cost-cutting bid, will be published in October.

Venue on offer for sports

People seeking venue for meetings or sporting activities are being asked to consider Blakenall Community Centre in Walsall.

Hiring is available between 9am to 8.30pm Monday to Friday and also on weekends. Contact Dan Garbett on 01922 712069 to book rooms at the centre in Blakenall Row.



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thechronicle

Grounds for concern on £97,000 coffee bills

Report by Elizabeth Joyce

Rent and utilities payments of more than £97,000 went unpaid after Walsall Council bosses failed to finalise a contract with Costa Coffee, which opened a branch in a museum.

It was reported last month how Costa Coffee opened at The New Art Gallery Walsall in July 2007 but the deal was left unsigned.

A Freedom of Information request has now revealed the lease was not completed for more than two years and the total amount of rent and utilities that went unpaid was £97,806.

The information shows Costa moved in to the gallery on July 16, 2007, but the contract was not signed until December 7, 2009. Walsall Council has since recovered all of the £97,808 from Costa Coffee.

The blunder was revealed in an internal audit report, which also criticised the gallery's collection records.

Watchdogs said some valuable artworks, including one £10,000 sculpture and an £800 print, were unable to be located due to inaccurate and misleading records.

Failings

Auditors said that the failings on the Costa Coffee contract had caused "loss of income, unauthorised arrangements, failure to secure full contractual benefits to the council and a lack of contractual security".

Inspectors also said "inaccurate, out-of-date and unclear" records resulted in valuable items going missing.

The official report reads: "Twenty items could not be located by art gallery staff while undertaking their location checks. These items are classified as 'unknown' on records.

"During 1996, items were loaned to HSBC as part of an education funding deal. Although in 2004 the exhibits were collected by gallery staff, one of the items could not be located and no further investigations have since been undertaken to locate the missing item, which was valued at £800."

The gallery has made a number of improvements since the audit report, including bringing in an on-going collections stock check which has staff spending four hours a week stock checking the 2,000 artworks from the collections and updating the database.

As part of Walsall Council's cost-cutting measures to save £65 million over the next three years, the gallery is set to be closed on bank holidays and Sundays.

No-one at the council was available to comment at time of going to press.

Library books in top rockers



Red Venice band members Melv Amos, Steve Smith and Sam Hayward get ready for what will be one of the first concerts at revamped Bloxwich Library.

The walls of the new-look Bloxwich Library will be rocking when a cover band take to the stage this month.

Rock group Red Venice will be among the first to hold a concert at the library following a £1.2 million revamp.

The five-piece band will perform songs from the likes of Iron Maiden, Whitesnake and Kings of Leon on January 29.

Walsall Council transport officer and bass player Steve Smith asked if they could hold the concert after the official opening of the new Elmore

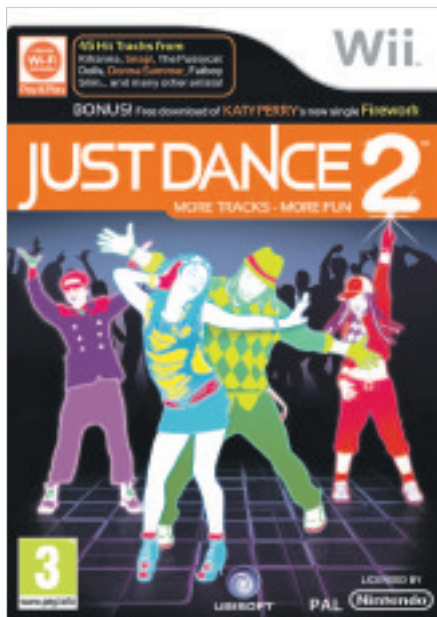
Row facility. Now, alongside fellow band members Melv Amos, Nigel Head, Darren Collins and Sam Hayward, they have been given permission.

Steve, aged 53, of Coalpool, said: "It should be good as it is a nice little venue. There are not many places like it for live events."

Tickets are £5 from the library, or call 07736 379560.

The library initially closed in 2009, with temporary book-lending facilities provided, until it reopened again last September.

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Suspected crack den closed by police raid

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A suspected drugs den in Walsall has been closed down by police after being alerted by residents.

Officers swooped on the three-bedroom terraced property in Prince Street, Pleck, following fears it was being used as a crack house.

They forced their way into the house at 7am on January 15, where they found a man and three women inside.

All four were immediately evicted from the rented home. Although no drugs were discovered during a search of the house, West Midlands Police said there was evidence of illegal substances having been used.

Officers are liaising with the house's landlord, who they said had no idea what had become of his property.

A total of eight officers were involved in the raid. The house has now been boarded up to prevent anyone getting inside.

Sgt Gary Iliff, from the Pleck and Delves neighbourhood team, said: "Over the last week or so we have had calls from local residents about activity at the address."

Targeted

"Evidence of recent drug use was found and we have no doubt it was about to be used as an active crackhouse."

"Most of the residents were pleased with the police action. It is an example of how police will deal with local concerns."

"The key is to close them down as quickly as possible. Often the landlord may not be aware of what is going on as they can be sub-let."

No arrests were made during the weekend of January 15-16 and police investigations are continuing. Sgt Iliff said officers would be working alongside residents to tackle issues of concern within their neighbourhoods.

One resident, who did not want to be named, said: "There were people coming in and out at all times of the day."

"It was a nuisance and we are relieved it has been stopped. We don't want anything with drugs going on around here."

In a crackdown on drugs across Walsall, West Midlands Police officers have regularly targeted cannabis factories.

A £12,000 cannabis haul was found at a home in Darlaston earlier this month. It was the 13th drugs warrant in the area in the last three and a half months. The raid at a property in Dangerfield Lane saw 74 cannabis plants were found.

Caring children give it their all



Scarlet Salt, aged six, Grace Salt, nine, Holly Mills, six and Sophia Evans, 13 have helped raise more than £1,000 from Advent events.

Youngsters at a Walsall church have joined forces to help raise £1,000 for a school in Bethlehem.

Children from St Matthew's in the town centre decided to collect cash for St Aphrem's Christian Arab school.

After hearing about the poor resources there they dedicated their Christmas appeal to the cause.

The youngsters baked and sold cakes, hosted a coffee morning and put on a table top sale.

By the time of the St Matthew's Gift Service on December 5 the children, many of who are primary age, had collected £415. They then challenged

adults in the congregation to match their efforts and a further £462 was contributed.

The younger members were not to be outdone and raised another £123 with a cheque sent to the school earlier this month.

Colin Gibson, Rector of St Matthew's, said, "Our children have shown amazing initiative and energy throughout this appeal."

"Their caring attitude towards children in another part of the world is outstanding. Everyone at St Matthew's should be very proud of our Children's Church."

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LETTERS

thechronicle

Immorality of EU exploiting poorer countries is exposed

Dear Sir,
The immorality of the EU has been laid bare.

The EU is using trade and investment agreements to secure cheap access to raw materials and unfair preferential treatment for EU businesses at the expense of the Third World.

This aggressive new "resource grab" is preventing developing countries from creating jobs, building businesses and raising valuable revenue.

In fact, the Third World is kept in virtual slavery by the EU, they want a weak submissive Third World so they can go on exploiting them.

The Third World is rich in raw material ie. Kenya raised export taxes on raw hides and skins more than 7,000 jobs were created and earnings from the sector rocketed to more than 11 million dollar but such vital measures are being undermined by the EU in a drive to secure cheap access to raw materials, the EU wants to prevent developing countries using measures such as these and force them to go up to European companies before they are ready.

We want the Third World to govern its own destiny.

The EU wants the Third World as slaves to help off-set its disastrous fiscal policies as seen in Ireland, Greece and Spain.

We are all painfully aware of the conflicts in Africa, I wonder how many know it is the EU acting through third and fourth parties responsible for a lot of this bloodshed. Why supply money and guns to both sides as they know a country ravaged by war cannot stand up to the EU so they will accept whatever the EU gives them no matter how meagre it is.

England should waste no time in getting out of this immoral jungle.

Mrs Bristow,
Willenhall.

Clearing up any misunderstandings about the tree work for the arboretum

Dear Sir,

There has been much nonsense written about the trees being felled in the Arboretum.

In many ways it is a disservice to all involved, from officers, Arboretum User Group (AUG), the portfolio holder Anthony Harris and myself.

I can assure everyone, none of us would agree to any tree being removed unless it was absolutely necessary.

Perhaps, a better explanation is needed about why they are being removed, transplanted or

replaced. As part of the Heritage Lottery bid, an in-depth audit of every tree was taken and a tree management plan put into effect.

This took many months and included a large input from the AUG, who spent long hours over many months with officers which trees would be saved.

Furthermore, the views of the public have been invited over the last two or three years and I am certain there has never been greater consultation on this major project, which will benefit not only our residents but the

many visitors from neighbouring councils. It is always sad to see any tree felled, but originally trees in my favourite park were planted on the basis many would be thinned at a later date but never were. This has led to poor quality trees, over-dense canopies in others and trees well past their sell by date and dangerous. In the long term hundreds of new trees will be planted to give future generations a healthier environment.

Clr Barry Sanders,
Arboretum Champion.

Donate unwanted presents

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask your readers to donate unwanted Christmas gifts to their nearest Age UK shop this January.

The Charity urgently needs stock to help fund its vital work to improve the lives of older people across the country.

Age UK relies on quality donations such as clothing, accessories, jewellery and gadgets to stock its shops, which are helping to raise funds to keep older people warm and well in winter as part of the Charity's Spread the Warmth campaign.

In addition, Age UK is urging people to donate their old PCs and laptops (although not monitors) to their local Age UK shop.

They will be refurbished and sold on with the profits Age UK makes going towards helping people in later life to start accessing the benefits the Internet has to offer.

People can find their nearest Age UK shop by visiting www.ageuk.org.uk or calling 0800 169 87 87.

Time to unite and put pressure on government to make fuel prices fair

Dear Sir,

There can now be very few people in the UK still unaware of the record price being charged for fuel at the pumps and it won't be long before we all feel the effects.

But one group being particularly hard hit right now are UK hauliers. The road freight industry is the 6th largest employer in the UK and really is the industry on which the rest of the economy, particularly the manufacturing sector, is almost totally dependent.

Food distribution is another sector on which we all rely; we all expect to see fresh bread and milk on our supermarket shelves but how many of us actually stop to think how it actually got there? Who would ever have envisaged the day when a loaf of fresh bread became a luxury item? If prices continue to rise it could soon become a reality.

It's time that something was done. To that end, the two organisations that look after the interests of British hauliers have

decided enough is enough and, in an unprecedented move, they are putting up a united front and are both firmly behind the campaign FairFuelUK. Between them, they represent thousands of UK hauliers.

To make a real difference we need ALL fuel users to join our campaign. Please help us to help you by signing the petition at www.FairFuelUK.com.

G Dunning,
Chief Executive,
Road Haulage Association.

Midlands traders are forward thinking

Dear Sir,

Businesses in the West Midlands are some of the most forward thinking in the country when it comes to technology.

Rather than looking at how it can help save them money, these business leaders are instead focusing on how technology can help them get ahead of the competition.

We carried out a recent study which showed that 22 per cent of businesses said savvy IT investment had enabled them to become more responsive. And a further 19 per cent highlighted how it had helped them adapt to changing market conditions.

Whilst it would be easy for businesses in austere times to focus only on making savings, companies across the West Midlands should be congratulated for their desire to continue trailblazing.

Paul Lawrence,
Head of Business Markets,
West Midlands,
Virgin Media Business.

Lifetime trip chance to help cancer fund

Dear Sir,

I am writing to offer your readers the chance to visit one of the wonders of the world for World Cancer Research Fund. The charity - which funds cancer prevention research and education - is offering places on three trips in 2011 to see the ruins of Machu Picchu, high in the Peruvian Andes.

Trekkers only need a £475 registration fee to reserve a place and then raise a set amount of sponsorship. Three trips are being organised in May, September and October. To find out more, please visit www.wcrf-uk.org/peru

Sian Fraser,
WCRF.

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A good Samaritan has been ticked off for an act of kindness that helped 90-year-old Joyce Burt get out of her snowbound home.

A good Samaritan has been ticked off for an act of kindness that helped 90-year-old Joyce Burt get out of her snowbound home.

After eight days snowed in, the pensioner's kind-hearted neighbour cleared the drifts from the footpath of her Willenhall home, so she could go to the shops.

But the grandmother is now angry after landlord Walsall Housing Group wrote a letter to Michael Lander telling him not to do it again – because of fears over health and safety.

The 60-year-old lollipop man was then ticked off by housing staff at a meeting, but has defiantly vowed: "I'd do it all again." Mrs Burt, a former care worker,

said she had been delighted when Mr Lander knocked on her door and offered to clear the path so she could get her usual taxi to the shops.

"He spent all afternoon clearing the snow and ice. I was able to call a taxi and go into town for a short while," said the grandmother-of-seven.

"I don't like to be inside all the time and I missed going out."

But days later Mr Lander, who lives in an adjacent block of flats to Mrs Burt's home was sent the letter, before meeting with housing officers who told him his actions were dangerous.

"I feel very upset about it because I thought it was such a kind thing for

someone to do," said Mrs Burt. Mr Lander, who patrols the crossing outside Fibbersley Park Primary School, said: "To me it's a little bit childish. If the other residents ask me to do it, then I will clear up the snow. I've been doing it for years."

Walsall Housing Group spokeswoman Lyndsey Hunt praised Mr Lander for his community spirit and said he had acted with the "best intentions".

"At the same time we were made aware – by another resident – that as a result of the snow being cleared the path had become more slippery and the potential danger of this was explained to Mr Lander in person by one of our team," she added.

Police have made a fresh appeal for information on an armed robbery at a Walsall bookmakers.

A man entered Ladbrokes on Weston Street, Palfrey, and threatened staff with a small, black handgun before escaping with cash.

The robber was a mixed race man in his mid 20s, 5ft 8ins and of slim build.

He was wearing square glasses, a dark coat and a dark woolly hat. No-one was injured as a result of the incident which happened at about 4pm on January 9.

Anyone with information can contact police on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

A Walsall pub wants musicians for its weekly open mic night. The Drunken Duck, High Street, Walsall Wood, the events start 8pm on Tuesdays.

Preparations are under way for a long-standing pensioners' party which will be held in a new venue after 61 years.

The Willenhall Old Folks Treat, a traditional sing-song and meal, has traditionally been held at Willenhall Leisure Centre. But, following the centre's closure last year, the party will now be in Pool Hayes Arts and Community School, Castle Drive on April 2.

The free event is for people aged 70 and over and tickets are only available on three days in March from Willenhall Library.

Those wishing to attend must have turned 70 before December 31, 2010, and tickets will be available on March 29, 30 and 31 between 9.30am and

Organiser Anne Wrighton said: "This will be our first year away from the leisure centre and we were sad to see it go. But the headteacher and staff at Pool Hayes have been very, very kind and we are looking forward to the party."

A musician will perform traditional favourites such as Roll Out the Barrel and We'll Meet Again.





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thechronicle

New appeal over dangerous dog

Police have renewed an appeal for information about a dog which attacked a man in Walsall.

The victim suffered bites to his arm, thigh, buttock and ankle and had to be treated in hospital.

The victim ran to a nearby parked car and took refuge as the dog tried to get into the car after him.

He had been walking his Staffordshire bull terrier near Greaves Avenue, Park Hall, when what is thought to be a white

English bull terrier leapt at him. His pet was not injured.

Schools close to the area where the attack happened have been warned to beware of the dangerous dog.

Pc Rich Wilson said: "We have had a number of calls from people following the original appeal, who contacted the Crimestoppers charity with information.

"We would like these people to come forward and speak to us so we can take statements and pursue the investigation

further." He said the dog, which was stocky and had a large brown patch around its left eye, had not been on a lead and no owner was visible.

Pc Wilson said: "We are asking anyone in the Park Hall area who recognises the description of the animal to contact us as soon as possible."

The attack happened shortly before 3pm on November 11. Anyone with information can call Pc Wilson on 0345 113 5000.

Centre in receipt of a book with some mystery

With their ornate letterheads and old-fashioned copperplate, these pieces of paper almost look like miniature works of art.

But on closer inspection, they are the company receipts for a Walsall firm dating from the 1890s.

Covering a four year period, these receipts chart the purchases made by Walsall-based bit makers Reuben Craddock & Sons from the Wisemore area of the town.

Hundreds of receipts had been painstakingly maintained and compiled into a volume giving an insight into the companies operating in and around Walsall at the time.

The collection has been handed to staff at Walsall Local History Centre.

From bits of metal to a toast rack, the receipts show details of the company's purchases and trade from 1895 to 1899.

They include notes from well-known firms such as Walsall Lithographic Company and chainmakers Job Wheway & Sons.

But the receipts are proving something of a mystery for history centre staff, who have very few records of Reuben Craddock & Sons. Paul Ford, archivist at the Essex Street centre, said: "It is just an interesting kind of item. What this company has done is something I have never come across before."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the centre.



A receipt from J Withers and son.



A receipt from Walsall Lithographic.



Paul Ford with a receipt book from Reuben Craddock and Son Ltd

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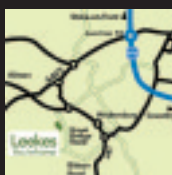


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Blaze-hit rugby club's dash to beat deadline

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A Walsall rugby team that lost its clubhouse in a fire faces a race against time to be up and running by next season.

There are doubts a new clubhouse will be built for Aldridge Rugby Club in time for the 2011-12 season.

The club submitted an application to rebuild last October after the old building was destroyed by a fire in July 2009. Because the site is on green belt, a statutory consultation period had to run until December 2.

Club member Jim Chambers said: "We are a bit annoyed about the delay, as we were hoping to get planning permission before Christmas, but we will be lucky if we get a clubhouse up for next season."

"We set ourselves that target, and if we don't get moving soon we will find it difficult to meet that target."

Mr Chambers said the £320,000 clubhouse in Bourne Vale, to include 177 square metre changing rooms, showers and toilets, will take about 16 weeks to build. The contract is going out to tender now so as soon as planning permission is agreed the club can give contractors the go-ahead.

Struggle

Club bosses also need to apply to the Rugby Union for an £80,000 grant.

"Whatever happens, we will struggle on, like we did last season," Mr Chambers said, "It's just going to be a bit of a rush."

Matches were played at other grounds after fire ripped through changing rooms and the bar area and destroyed kit and equipment worth more than £5,000.

The new clubhouse will include an entrance lobby, toilets, a club meeting room for players to discuss rugby after matches and training, with dining space for players to use after matches. The buildings could also be used by mourners wishing to meet after attending services at nearby Streetly Crematorium.

Bob Scrivens, Walsall Council area planning manager, said the application was received in late October, for a replacement clubhouse.

"The proposal roughly doubles the floorspace of the clubhouse and the site is in a sensitive part of the Green Belt, close to Bourne Vale."

"Proposals like this raise complex issues of planning policy. It is intended that a decision will be made in the very near future."

Pupils with an eye on the future

Pupils from a Walsall school presented their own view of the 21st century when they designed a futuristic car during a competition.

Schoolchildren from across the borough are taking part in the creative challenge which is run through the Walsall Education Business Partnership.

A total of 12 teams from six primary schools took part in a heat at Shire Oak School on Thursday. They had to come up with designs for a car having looked at the likes of hovercars for inspiration.

The teams of six then had to give a presentation and it was Leighwood school in Broadmeadow, Aldridge, which came out on top.

They competed against the likes of Millfield in Brownhills, Walsall Wood and Ryders Hayes in Pelsall.

The team of nine and 10-year-olds will now go through to the Walsall final at the Banks's Stadium on June 9.

There will then be a Black Country-wide final at Molineux Stadium on July 6.



Ellis Miles, Christian Alford, Natasha Smith, all aged 10, and George White with Lauren Edwards, both nine, and Jenny Smith, 10, from Leighwood School

Charity zip

A zip slide for Walsall Hospice will run on May 14 at Banks's Stadium. Registration is £35 and participants need to raise at least £100 in sponsorship.

Den of activity

Families will be able to build dens at Rough Wood Chase Local Nature Reserve from 10am on February 23. Visitors can get back to nature by foraging for materials. To book call 0845 111 2900.

Arty Christine

Christine Capewell, aged 58, of Aldridge, shows her contemporary Christian artwork at The Crossing at St Pauls, Darwall Street, Walsall, until February 7.

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thechronicle

Andrew scores with book

There has been the joy of promotion and disappointment of relegation but the past 20 years have proved anything but dull for Walsall FC.

Following the move from Fellows Park to Bescot Stadium, there has been success in Black Country derbies and stints in the second tier of English football, dampened by spells in the old fourth division.

Now all the events of the past two decades have been captured in a newly published book, The

Bescot Years, the work of Sadlers' matchday programme and website editor, Andrew Poole.

It gives an overview of each season with results and team line-ups from each game, while pictures from over the years also feature in the 240-page book.

It starts with the first game at the ground, now Banks's Stadium, which saw more than 9,500 attend a friendly against Aston Villa in August 1990.

Sir Stanley Matthews attended the opening of the £4.5

million stadium which has since had a new stand erected.

The ground has also staged international football including an England B international against Switzerland in May 1991. Mr Poole said: "A wealth of players, managers, staff and supporters have passed through the doors here."

●The Bescot Years is on sale at the Banks's Stadium club shop, the Walsall FC programme shop and the Football Shop in Walsall town centre, priced £19.99.

Thereby hangs a tale - of Clayhanger

Walsall grandfather Brian Stringer has written about life growing up in a small mining village.

Brian, aged 72, who lives with wife Maureen, 68, in Park Close, Brownhills, has written about the first 16 years of his life in Clayhanger in The Clayhanger Kid.

Based on memories of the 1940s and 1950s, it is packed with stories, family pictures, class photos and snaps.

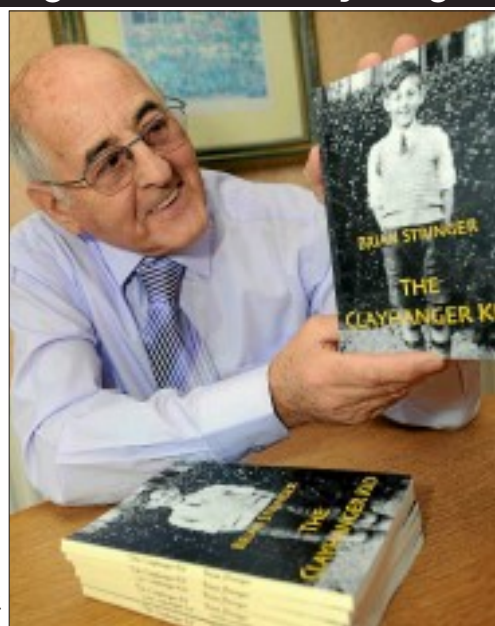
Brian said: "I was the editor of the Brownhills Gazette monthly magazine between 1988 and 1993 and published old pictures of people and the area. I wanted to write this as a legacy to what it was like growing up here."

As a youngster, he lived in High Street with his mother Maud, father Cyril and younger brother Barry. Brian said of Clayhanger: "It doesn't flood any more. In those days the whole area sunk because of mining subsidence."

"I used to have to wade through the water to get to school or get a lift on a canoe."

He will sign copies of his book at Brownhills Library on February 5 at 10am-4pm.

The £6 book is available at Downes High Street Newsagents, Brownhills Library, Chasewater Innovation Centre, Walsall Local History Centre and The Museum of Cannock Chase, or by calling 01543 821539.



Brian Stringer has written about his boyhood in a Walsall mining village

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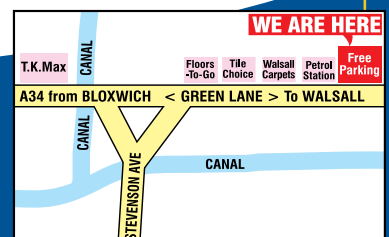
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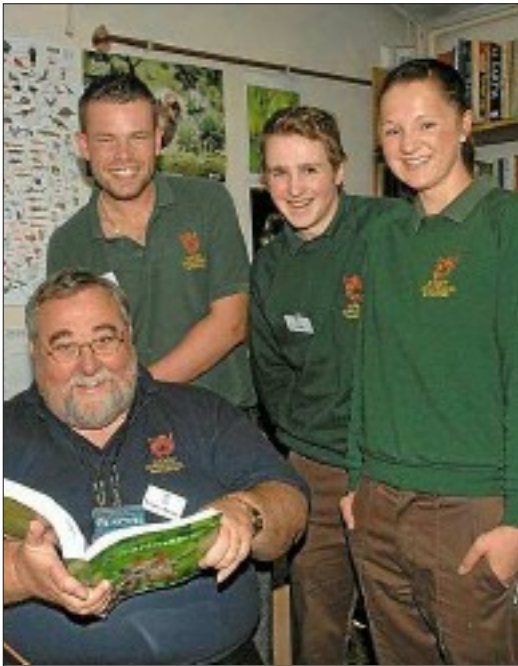
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Stacey is wild about results



Dudley Zoo keepers Jay Haywood, Luke Millar and Stacey Ball celebrate their exam results with zoo registrar and research co-ordinator Dr David Beeston

A zoo keeper from Walsall is going wild about earning his stripes with top marks in animal care exams.

Stacey Ball, aged 22, fits in studies for the Advanced National Certificate in the Management of Zoo Animals between duties at Dudley Zoo with Jay Haywood, 27, and Luke Millar, 23.

Stacey has been at the zoo for five years looking after primates and birds. Jay, from Dudley, joined the zoo team in 2000 and has cared for big cats and hoofed mammals.

Bird keeper Luke, from Tewkesbury, started work on site in 2008.

Dudley Zoo's registrar and research co-ordinator Dr David Beeston said: "Jay, Luke and Stacey have done very well and achieved excellent results, everyone at the zoo is very proud of them."

"They have all passed the exam which follows the first year of studies for the Advanced National Certificate, which is the recognised qualification for zoo keepers."

In the second year the zookeepers will tackle various assignments, followed by a dedicated study into a specialist subject towards the end of the course.

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Kirby to take hospital helm

The new boss of Walsall Manor Hospital is to be 37-year-old Richard Kirby.

Currently chief operating officer at Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, Mr Kirby takes up the role of chief executive in Walsall after Easter, replacing Sue James.

He was described by his new employers as "young, bright and very personable".

All candidates for the top job underwent a panel interview and were involved in three discussion groups.

They covered topics such as

patient experience, clinical quality and working with different partner organisations.

Mr Kirby said he was looking forward to working in Walsall and was delighted with the recent £170 million transformation of the Manor.

By the time he joins Walsall Hospital NHS Trust, community health workers, such as stop smoking experts and fitness trainers, will have joined the trust to form the new care organisation - Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust. Community health services are being integrated as

part of the scrapping of Primary Care Trusts in the NHS Reform.

Mr Kirby said: "The opening of the new Manor Hospital and the integration with community health services provide exciting opportunities for continuing to improve services for local people and I am looking forward to joining Walsall healthcare at such an important stage in its development."

Ben Reid, chairman at Walsall Manor Hospital, said: "Richard Kirby is young, bright and very personable and we are delighted with his appointment."

Another fine mess for children to enjoy

A playgroup where children have the freedom to be as messy as they like in Walsall is encouraging more parents to come along with their young children.

The workshop at the Birchills and North Walsall SureStart Centre encourages children to explore their surroundings, and this week it was given a sensory theme.

The Play and Stay session was welcoming about 22 parents to the group at the Birchills Street centre with their children, aged up to about three and a half, on Monday.

The children were able to play with paint, toys, shiny and furry surfaces, with some getting messier than others in the process.

Belvinder Chander, nursery officer at the centre, said: "We had lots of smells and touchy-feely surfaces for them to play with. It's for the children to investigate and for us to observe their development and how they react. It's all there, from real play, to construction, to messy play."

"We have good regular parents who are here every week, as well as newcomers. We are always encouraging new parents to come along."



Mothers and toddlers with staff, from left, childcare officer Hayley Walker, Shellee Wilson, Azish Chander, three, and his mother, Belvinder Chander.



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Plea for
run help

A hospice in Walsall is appealing for runners to support the charity in this year's London Marathon.

Acorns Children's Hospice, in Walstead Road, wants people to sign up for the event on April 17, which will see more than 35,000 runners go around the 26-mile route.

Lucy Shepherd from the hospice, said: "As a local charity, we only have a small number of places for the marathon which have now been allocated following a ballot. Sponsorship for the event is a great way to raise funds for charity and we depend on runners who have a place to use it to fundraise for Acorns."

Father's book on organs scandal

The father of a baby girl, whose organs were retained without her parents' permission when she died, has written a book about the experience.

Joseph Lawlor, of Willenhall, wrote Thief of Hearts about his daughter Kaine, who died of meningitis in Birmingham Children's Hospital in 1989.

The author and his former wife Karen were among a group of families from across the country who took legal action against the NHS over the practice.

When Kaine died, aged 18 months, her parents refused when the hospital asked if

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

her organs could be removed for transplant. They were horrified when The Retained Organs Commission's 2002 report led them to discover that her brain, heart, kidneys and ovaries had been taken regardless, and may have been sold to pharmaceutical companies for £12 each.

Daughter

Mr Lawlor, 47, said: "The book covers the story of my daughter who contracted meningitis very early in her life.

It shows myself and her mom trying to deal with the devastating effects of the disease and Kaine's battle against it and ultimately losing her fight.

Then, years later, discovering what hap-

pened to her and then our having to deal with the organ retention scandal and its effects on my mind."

The self-employed cladding technician, of Regent Street, said the story practically wrote itself once he sat down to write it.

"In my analysis of what had happened, trying to make sense of it all.

"I felt the numbers became too big and the human factor was somehow lost in the sheer size and complexity of the whole scandal."

The book, backed by the Meningitis Trust, is due to be published later this year.

"This is a story of love," said Mr Lawlor. "A love of a father for his lost child, she would never be forgotten."

First family feature in flats



Stephanie Horin and Maddison with Accord Group chief Dr Christopher Handy, regeneration boss Assad Hamed, Walsall Council's Tim Johnson and Councillor Adrian Andrew.

The first family has moved into the multi-million pound Walsall Waterfront development.

The £65 million scheme set to revive the town centre welcomed Dean and Stephanie Horin and their children to one of the three-bedroom homes owned and managed by the Accord Group.

Dean, aged 32 and Stephanie, 30, are moving into the apartment in Boulevard Walk with 13-year-old Joshua and Maddison, 20 months.

The family is moving from a two-bedroom home in Rose Hill, Willenhall. Stephanie, a shop assistant at New Look in Walsall town centre, said: "It's lovely. There's no painting to do or anything, it's all done. I never

thought we would move into a newly-built house.

"It's brilliant for me because I work in the town centre."

She and husband Dean, a plumber, were welcomed into the property as the complex's first residents by a host of well wishers, including managing director Clive Jessup, whose firm is building the development, and Walsall Council's regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew.

Councillor Andrew said: "It is tremendous that the first residents are moving in to their new homes in our Waterfront community."

"It is part of the jigsaw of regenerating neighbourhoods and communities in the borough of Walsall."

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Report hits out on bed-blocking

Pensioners and disabled people waiting to be discharged from hospital and have their care transferred to social services experienced delays in Walsall last year, a new report revealed.

From January to June, the number of delayed transfers for patients doubled to 12.2 per 100,000 population – up from 6.3 in 2009-10.

An investigation into the problems between Walsall Manor Hospital and Walsall Council revealed there had been a number of failings. They included the

incomplete recording of hospital discharge data by health and social care staff, "weak co-ordination" by staff in response to the discharge times and a lack of "robust" links between the teams.

However, the situation is now getting better and targets are expected to be exceeded following the introduction of a number of improvements. In November, a specialist team was set up to oversee the entire discharge process. A new manager was also appointed to co-ordinate all out-of-borough discharges from hospital.

The issue was revealed in a report to go before council bosses. The document stated: "There has been improved collaboration between the hospital and the staff at social care, resulting in a more co-ordinated approach and timely hospital discharges."

The report also highlighted delays for people waiting to have overall social care packages created.

They should be in place within 28 days, but out of 1,493 packages in 2010/11, 205 missed the deadline.

Clubs to bring in 50 jobs

Around 50 jobs are set to be created in Walsall town centre following the refurbishment of two popular nightclubs.

Insomnia and WS1 are both to be given overhauls worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Insomnia, in Bradford Place, has already closed its doors for its revamp, which will create more than 20 jobs.

The full refurbishment of WS1, in Bridge Street, will follow and create an extra 30 jobs.

Nick Parkinson, of Utopia Clubs Ltd, said Insomnia, would reopen with a new name and completely new look.

"The doors are now closed and the construction work is well under way," he said.

"It closed down on New Year's Eve for a major refurbishment with the hope of creating more than 20 jobs."

The walls, ceilings and floors in Insomnia have now been stripped and the construction work is being carried out at pace.

The revamp will be followed by the overhaul of Insomnia's sister club.

Street signwriter lands in alphabet soup

A road in Willenhall town centre has been given a new name – after street signs were misspelled.

Lower Lichfield Street has a 't' in it after the incorrect spelling was put on some of the plaques.

The word 'Litchfield' is on four of the signs which are placed along the street.

One of them is below the shop window of Roy Birch DIY and RB Blinds which sits on the corner of the road in Willenhall town centre.

The mistake is compounded by the correct name being etched in the brickwork above the shop's glass frontage.

Mr Birch said: "Someone has been paid a lot of money for doing this job and they have not done it right."

Willenhall North ward's Councillor Ian Shires said if townsfolk in the area had been consulted properly beforehand then such an error would never have occurred.

"It is disgusting and a waste of money as they now need to be replaced," he said.

"Anybody who knows the area knows that is not how to spell it."

Bosses at Walsall Council said they would be looking into the error at Willenhall and would visit the site.



Shopkeeper Roy Birch looks at one of the incorrect Lower Lichfield Street signs with a 't' which have been fitted in Willenhall.

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**LOCAL
HERITAGE**


STUART WILLIAMS of Walsall Local History Centre, the archives service and local studies library is looking at some of the remarkable and inspirational people who are associated with your borough.

Dorothy Wyndlow Pattison was born in 1832 at Hauxwell, Yorkshire, youngest daughter of Revd Mark Pattison, a strict, oppressive man who suffered badly from depression.

She wanted to join Florence Nightingale nursing soldiers in the Crimean War, but her father refused permission.

In 1861, Dorothy finally escaped her unhappy home life and began teaching at Little Woolston in Buckinghamshire, where she also visited and nursed the poor and sick of the parish.

In September 1864, she joined the Christ Church Sisterhood, an Anglican convent at Coatham, near Middlesbrough, and took the name of Sister Dora, training as a nurse at their cottage hospital in North Ormesby.

Back then, Walsall had no hospital, and workers often suffered from industrial injuries. Accident cases had to travel nine miles by cart on bumpy roads to Birmingham Hospital.

In 1859, Walsall sent the hospital a modest donation, prompting the hospital secretary to comment on the discrepancy between Walsall's contribution and the cost of caring for the town's patients.

Insult

This was perceived as an insult by some, who used it to press the issue locally, and Samuel Welsh, editor of the 'Walsall Free Press' began campaigning for a Walsall hospital.

In 1863, a small eight-bed "cottage" accident hospital, converted from two houses, was opened at 4 Bridge Street, in the charge of Sister Mary Jacques of Christ Church Sisterhood, assisted by Sister Dora.

The Sisters were not always welcome in Walsall – in the early days some of the locals were suspicious and hostile to their religious habits, confusing them with Catholic nuns. The more foolish even threw stones and mud at the hospital windows.

Sister Dora and Sister Mary in particular gradually overcame this hostility, and their work grew to include large numbers of outpatients and home visits, as well as assisting local doctors with minor operations. By the end of 1864, the hospital had expanded to fourteen beds. In January 1865, Sister Mary fell ill and Sister Dora replaced her. The hospital was badly overcrowded and understaffed, yet the death rate amongst serious accident victims there was less than the big London teaching hospitals.

In 1867, the Hospital Committee converted "The Mount", off Wednesbury Road, into a larger hospital. The tireless Sister Dora, working with other nurses and local doctors, did for the grateful industrial and railway workers of Walsall what Florence Nightingale had for the military casualties of the Crimea.

She also came to the fore when smallpox reached Walsall in 1875, and Walsall people were reluctant to go to the separate epidemic hospital because



LNWR "Jumbo" steam locomotive No. 2158 named 'Sister Dora' at Ryecroft Shed, late 1890s.

of its connection with the Workhouse and poor record. Sister Dora took charge and only the work there under her kept the epidemic in check. She resigned from the Order that summer, to devote herself to Walsall.

On 15 October 1875 an overloaded blast furnace exploded at the Green Lane firm of Jones and Son, and sixteen men were terribly burned.

Lacking spare beds, Sister Dora sent an entire ward home, scrubbing and disinfecting it ready for casualties. Local doctors worked long after midnight treating survivors.

Three were killed outright, five transferred to other wards and Sister Dora nursed eight hopeless cases for almost a fortnight, until the last died. Due to resulting infections, the hospital closed early in 1876. Temporary premises were set up in Bridgeman Place while a new hospital was built.

The only happy outcome of the Green Lane disaster was the meeting of Sister Dora and Kenyon Jones, one of two brothers who owned the furnaces. They fell in love, and some of their secret letters spanning three years were discovered in the 1930s.

Strained

These reveal how close they were, even though they were never able to marry. The relationship was strained and constrained by the need to keep it secret, and then, sadly, in 1877 Sister Dora discovered she had breast cancer and, although the new hospital opened in November 1878, she was by then too ill to see it.

After visiting Paris in July 1878, Sister Dora had gone to Birmingham, where she had collapsed. Next day she insisted: "Let me go back to Walsall, that I may die among my own people". She passed away, in a cottage on Wednesbury Road, on Christmas Eve, 1878.

Her funeral, on 28 December, was attended by the Mayor, councillors and clergy, including two bishops. She was borne by eighteen railwaymen to Queen Street cemetery. Police were powerless to stop public crowds swarming into the cemetery to witness the burial.

Sadly, her original gravestone does not survive, but her resting place is now marked by a later granite memorial.

Sister Dora's statue on The Bridge, funded by public subscription, was unveiled on 11 October 1886. In 1957, eroded by pollution, it was replaced by the present bronze replica which, restored and moved across The Bridge some years ago, is still a wonderful reminder of a fine woman who is a true inspiration to this day.



Sister Dora around 1870



Original marble statue of Sister Dora on The Bridge, 12 October 1886.

For local and family history, drop into Walsall Local History Centre in Essex Street, which is part of Walsall Council. Call 01922 721305. For more information see www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre

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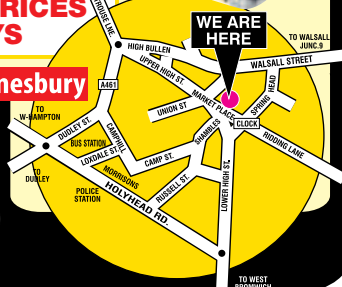
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To celebrate the opening of the new Tesco Express store on Salters Road, Walsall Wood, The Walsall Chronicle has teamed up with Tesco to give FIVE lucky readers the chance to win £50 each in Tesco vouchers to spend in the new store!

The new Tesco Express opened on January 14, when the store made a £500 donation to Walsall's Parkinson's UK support group. Kath Wilkinson, Chair, and Barbara Brittain, Vice-Chairman, cut a ribbon to declare the new store officially open for business!

With so much choice and convenience, your new Tesco Express is the perfect place to grab a sandwich or stock up on everyday essentials from a range of over 2,500 products and get Clubcard points too!

Enter this great competition and you could be stocking up on all your favourite products from Tesco. Choose from a range of fresh, chilled and frozen products, household items, daily essentials, newspapers and magazines.

The new Tesco Express store is now open from 6am - 11pm, seven days a week, and has the added convenience of a free cash machine, bakery, two self-service tills and beers, wines and spirits. There is also car parking available for customers.

To be in with a chance of being one of the FIVE lucky winners, simply send your answer to the question below, along with your name, address and telephone number, to us at "paper to fill in" by "paper to fill in".

The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date will each receive a £50 of Tesco gift card. To be in with a chance then answer the following question.



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This week's pictures come from Mr Christopher Matthews of Brownhills who has been out and about in the borough with his camera capturing the sights of local life and wildlife.



Frosted berries near Holland Park.



A fox in the woods off Engine Lane.



A worker wreaking the ice at Chasewater.

Pictures which capture life in the borough

Are you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures, if you can why not share your snaps of the borough? There is no limit on the age or the subject all we ask is that they be as

sharp and clear as possible and must be of reasonable quality for publication and of course feature some area or aspect of Walsall and its life. Send them in with your name, address and contact number and a brief description of

what the picture shows.

Also we would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we will do the rest. So get those cameras snap-

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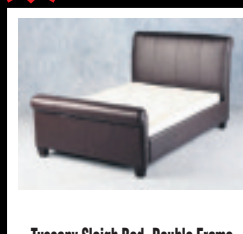
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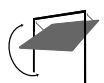
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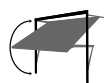
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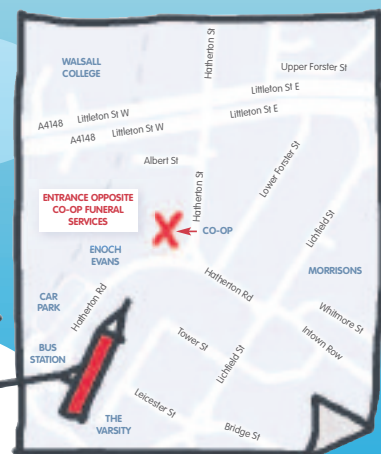
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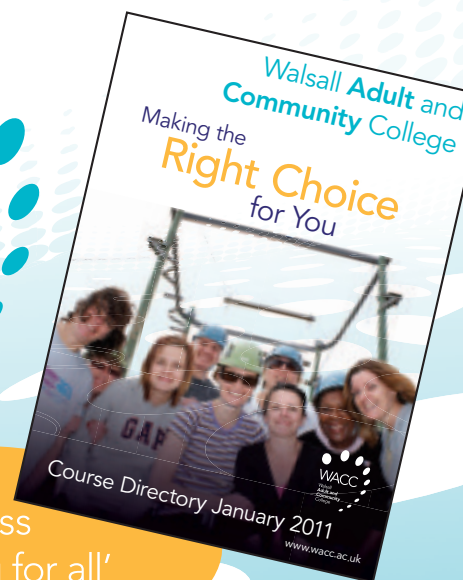
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Keep gardening diary of success and failure

A NEW year brings new beginnings in all our lives and especially in our gardens.

It's time to take stock of last year to see what went well and learn what we can do better this season.

I'm full of optimism for 2011, writes **John Clowes**. The positive uplift that gardening provides, together with the benefit of regular exercise, will see me investing more time in the garden and on the allotment.

Hopefully all families will be doing the same - especially if there are children to teach. Keeping notes of successes and failures provides good pointers for better results this year.

My successes include a great crop of carrots that had little damage from carrot root fly. This proves that 1m walls of clear plastic do prevent the flying females from laying their eggs and ruining my carrot crop.

Just four plants of yellow courgettes (T&M F1 Hybrid 'Soleil') weren't prolific enough for the kitchen and I must grow two or three green ones to boost total yields.

Stringless

They were completely unaffected by mildew, but perhaps they needed some extra feeding with Miracle-Gro Fruit & Vegetable Plant Food.

My climbing French beans, Sultana, proved worth their weight in gold. They cropped well during the warm weather of June and July producing mountains of long, tender and stringless pencil-podded beans.

Only by the end of August were the pink-flowered runner beans Celebration producing anything like the same amount.

Family and neighbours agreed the French beans were the best they had tasted. They are on my seed list again this year, as will be butternut squash Cobnut that produced good winter squash that ripened and stored well.



French beans Sultana proved popular with family and friends

Japanese anemones make a great flower display in the autumn, but standard varieties grow to quite a size that is too big for most narrow flower beds. That's why the compact variety Pretty Lady Diana was a great addition in my garden. So too was Thompson & Morgan's first-ever red rudbeckia, Cherry Brandy.

Shrub discovery of 2010 was Loropetalum chinense Fire Dance. This relative of the witch hazel is evergreen with plenty of small heart-shaped leaves plum red in colour that carry along its stems deep pink spidery flowers. It seems to bloom all summer through from March to October, although the textbooks will tell you it produces most blooms in spring. The books will also say it will grow to 1 - 2m tall, although my plant is spreading outwards, rather than upwards, and makes a wonderful ground-hugging display.

And on to the reverse side of the garden-

ing coin - here are some of the 'not so good' results from 2010. All my sowings of rocket leaves were affected badly by flea beetle that drilled holes into every leaf, making all unsuitable for the salad bowl. Next year I will try to grow undamaged leaves in pots on the patio using Miracle-Gro All Purpose Compost.

Purple sprouting broccoli this year was disappointing as the pigeons ate more of the crop than the family. That's because the netting has developed holes over the years and must be replaced. Pests must be excluded totally if you are to get a half decent crop.

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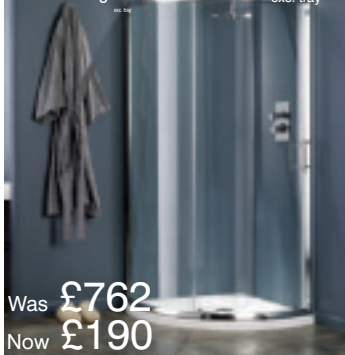
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In an original story, Disney On Ice presents a Disneyland Adventure inviting audiences to re-live their fondest Disneyland memories, as they join favourite characters and classic villains on a colourful and exciting vacation to the theme park.

It runs at Birmingham's LG Arena from February 23-27 and the organisers have teamed up with the Chroni-

cles to offer eight readers the chance to win a family ticket (four tickets that can be used for adults or adults and children). The tickets are for the opening night of Wednesday, February 23.

The show features an array of favourite Disney characters, including Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald, Goofy, Pluto, Baloo, Disney Princesses Snow White and Cinderella, Stitch, Disney/Pixar's The Incredibles and Buzz Lightyear.

Popular

In this spectacular production, the "Fabs" – Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Daisy, Goofy and Pluto – decide to take a vacation of their own and enjoy Disney's most popular theme park attractions.

Donald and Goofy attempt to join in the fun, resulting in a series of comical mishaps. But it's no laughing matter when the evil fairy Maleficent

shows up to spoil the fun, and Mickey must enlist The Incredibles to help save the day!

Tickets are available now through www.theticketfactory.com and priced at £13-£35 plus booking and transaction fees. Call the ticket hotline now on 0844 338 8000.

• To stand a chance of winning a family ticket simply answer the following question.

What is the name of the evil fairy?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and daytime contact number to Disney Competition, Chronicles (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, February 4. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.



Toy Story's Buzz Lightyear



The witch, from Sleeping Beauty, out to cause trouble as usual

Baloo the Bear from Jungle Book is surrounded by pesky monkeys

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the pulse

Alexandra's concert is late Valentine gift



Scarlett Strallen and Gareth Gates in concert

Romance in air with Gareth and Scarlett

TWO stars of musical theatre join forces for a romantic Valentine's night concert in Birmingham.

Gareth Gates and Scarlett Strallen will appear together in Valentine's at the Musicals at the Symphony Hall on February 14.

The runner-up in the original Pop Idol TV contest, Gareth Gates has gone on to carve himself a career in the West End, playing the lead role in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and as

Marius in last year's touring 25th anniversary production of Les Miserables.

Scarlett Strallen played Mary Poppins in the West End and on Broadway.

The concert will feature such love songs from the shows as My Funny Valentine, Can You Feel The Love Tonight and Can't Take My Eyes Off You.

Tickets are priced from £12.50 to £36.50, available on 0121 780 3333 or from the www.thsh.co.uk website.

GLAMOROUS singer Alexandra Burke is promising a Valentine's treat just a day late for fans with a spectacular show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on February 15 as part of her All Night Long UK tour.

Having won the fifth series of The X Factor, Alexandra, right, released her debut album Overcome in 2009.

The album went straight to Number One in the UK and has born four huge chart hits including All Night Long, Broken Heart and two number one singles Hallelujah and Bad Boys featuring Flo Rida.

The album has already sold in excess of 600,000 copies in the UK alone, already making it double platinum selling.

Her success doesn't stop there. Having been nominated for a BRIT Award for Best British Single in 2009 and 2010, she picked up the coveted Glamour Women of the Year Award for Best Newcomer in 2010.

After ruling the airwaves for weeks with her last Top Five hit single, Alexandra has just delivered her new song, Start Without You, which fuses traditional reggae influences with dancehall beats and power-pop melodies.

Tickets for her concert cost £27.50, and are available on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvscivc.co.uk



Shakespeare for kids - page 35

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING



The sound of Jason - page 40



Micky's new date - page 40

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Company's dream to get kids into the Bard

A HINT of summer comes to a Wolverhampton winter when Shakespeare4kidz present their children-friendly version of the Bard's tale of fairies, romance and transformation, A Midsummer Night's Dream, at the city's Grand Theatre.

On Tuesday and Wednesday (February 1 and 2) the company aims to make the classic works accessible to a modern young audience and prove that Shakespeare is far from boring with a combination of humour, song and modern language alongside great lines from the original text.

Traditionalists may not approve but according to S4K producer and director Julian Chenery: "Just as the film Oliver! did for Dickens, we are trying to make Shakespeare's language more understandable and use the musical theatre-style structure but without losing the authenticity of the narrative."

"We are making it more appealing without dumbing-down. We are putting on a differ-

What a Showstopper!

WITH perfect timing, Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre features hit Edinburgh Festival improv-musical show Showstopper! which has this month made the transition into a BBC Radio 4 series and is fast becoming a regular visitor to London's West End. The all-singing, all-dancing cast take suggestions from the audience for the theme and plot of the musical... and create it on the spot! It is performed at the Wulfruna Street university-linked venue tonight (Friday) at 8pm.

ent type of theatrical production and then, as the children's vocabulary matures, they can go and see more classical productions and enjoy them too."

In Dream, human folk roaming the forest become the unknowing pawns in a battle between the jealous king and queen of fairyland, who make an ass of the unfortunate

amateur actor Bottom. Performances are at 1.30pm and 7.30pm on Tuesday and at 11am and 1.30pm on Wednesday.

Comedy and music rules at the Grand next weekend with the Magic of Motown show presenting music from the legendary American soul music record label on Saturday, February 5 (5 and 8pm).

Then the Circus Hilarious crew bring their slapstick hilarity featuring modern clown Danny Adams on Sunday, February 6 (1.30 and 6pm).

Members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet move across the city centre from their home venue at Birmingham Hippodrome to the Symphony Hall for an evening of Music and Dance presented by the company's director David Bintley on Friday, February 4.

The show is the last hurrah of the company's 20th anniversary year in the city and will include highlights from the BRB's repertoire, including the much-loved Hobson's Choice and La Fille mal Gardée.

Birmingham Rep's first off-site production is Kenny Baraka's musical post-apocalyptic tale The Remembers, the one-hour tale of a teenager who holds the key to mankind's future.

It will be held in a warehouse at the AE Harris Building in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter from February 4 to 19.

Contact the box office on 0121 236 4455.

There is a Polish comedy night at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham tonight (Thursday) featuring surreal comedy group Lowcy B.

Circus of Horrors bring their modern day freak show to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on February 8.

The show is for over 16s only.



Scenes from Shakespeare4kidz' production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, left, Puck, the naughty sprite, and, right, Titania with Bottom



Cinema: Tangled (PG)

DISNEY'S 50th animated feature, Tangled, sees a return to the studio's fairy tale roots with a retelling of the story of Rapunzel, the girl with long golden hair locked away in a tall tower lost in a forest.

And when I say long, I mean loooooong. In this snazzy reboot of a Brothers Grimm classic, Rapunzel can lasso, abseil and swing around using her lengthy, luxurious, locks.

The effects are given an extra oomph by being delivered in 3D. The effect is really impressive in an action scene at a collapsing dam and in another when thousands of sky lanterns are released over a spectacular castle.

There is a handsome and witty leading man, charming rogue Flynn Rider (voiced by Zachary Levi), a cute chameleon sidekick called Pascal and a bolshie stallion called Maximus.

The animation is, as you would expect, top-notch. Disney has created a feisty new princess in Rapunzel (voiced by Mandy Moore), who is held captive by an evil mother figure. She's actually a witch who kidnapped her from the royal palace - determined to keep the secret of eternal youth and healing locked in Rapunzel's glowing tresses.

There's even an interesting 'mother-daughter struggle' subtext in her relationship with her captor, who, incidentally, looks rather like Carol Vorderman.

And there is plenty of comedy and action to keep boys entertained too. Tangled is a treat for all the family. It opens at cinemas today (Thursday).

Leon Burakowski

Stephen K Amos, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton TECHNOLOGY old and new was among the topics tackled by comics Seann Walsh and Stephen K Amos at the Civic Hall.

Zany Brighton-based funnyman Walsh kicked off the night and provided hearty warm-up for the main event ahead. His efforts as support act have earned him his own headline tour, and he plays at the Civic again on October 18.

Amos's tour is labelled 'the best medicine' with the aim of getting people to laugh at themselves or in adversity - and he didn't disappoint. Having been upgraded from the smaller Wulfrun Hall, the Civic attendance was somewhat lower than expected. But from the off, the comedian enjoyed a terrific rapport with those in the audience, quickly brushing aside a heckle for having the wrong Wolverhampton accent.

A little of his material had been heard before, but was still cleverly delivered, with his list of topics ranging from his family life, his diary entries from the age of 13 and touring, particularly in Australia. And he found a 'target' with an Antipodean gent among the crowd.

After more than an hour of stand-up, Amos was willing to meet and greet his fans in the foyer, happily signing autographs.

Mark Shipp

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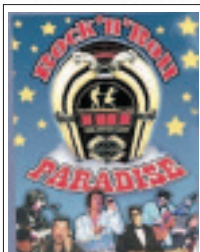
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Saturday Night Live Tribute

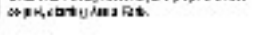
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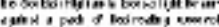
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Friday[illegible]

BBC2 6.00 Cbeebies, 7.00 CBBC, 8.30 Cbeebies, 12.35 Pearly's Steady Cook, 12.00 Daily Politics, 12.50 GMT with George Alagiah, 1.00 Day South, 1.15 Climbing Great Britain, 1.30 25 Minutes, 1.45 Countryfile, 2.00 Day 25 Minutes, 2.15 Food for Thought, 2.30 5.15 Antiques Road Trip, 6.00 Eyewitness, 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys, 7.00 Jubilee Brakesbury's German Wondershow, 7.30 An Island Fairs, 8.00 Mastermind, 8.30 Life in a Cottage Garden with David Klein, 9.00 Cant Take it with You, 9.30 The Great British Bake Off, 10.00 The Review Show, Weather, 11.50 Flint, The

TV-14 6:00 Daybreak, 6:30 Local, 8:25 TV
Jersey's Got Talent, 9:30 This Morning,
12:30 Loose Women, 1:30 ITV News/Weather,
1:55 Regional News/Weather, 2:00 My the Best
Music/Win, 3:00 Doherty's Real Deal, 3:50
Judge Judy, 4:00 The Big Takeaway, 5:
5:00 The Clinic, 6:00 News/Weather, 6:
6:30 ITV News/Weather, 7:00 Emmerdale, 7:30
Coronation Street, 8:00 Children's Hospital, 8:
8:30 Coronation Street, 9:00 Comedy Pickle with Jason
Manford, 9:00 ITV News at Ten, 9:30

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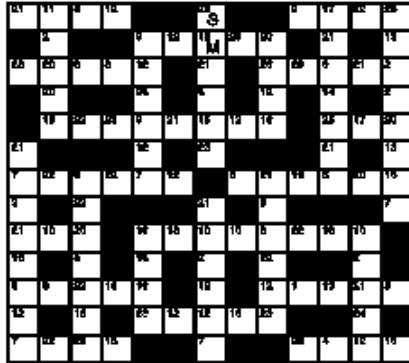
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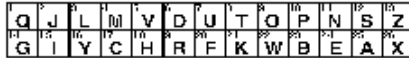
No. 101

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. He kneels sup part before the reform (7)
7. Ideal group to play on eighteenth hole? (5)
9. Son in one Eastern land (3)
10. Spoke in broken English? (2)
12. Slight violation in silver and copper, perhaps (5,6)
15. The boss's office (11)
17. Policeman examines a piece of furniture (9)
19. Sounds like a short age of death (3)
21. Very serious position to end up in? (5)
22. Rival bird is not on time (7)

Quick Clues:

Across

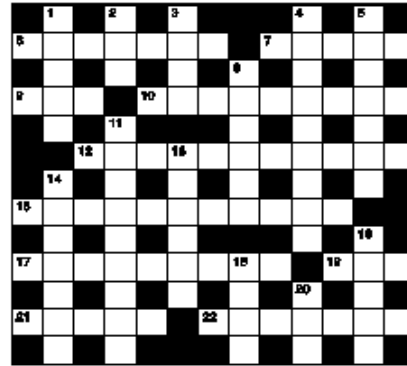
6. Income (7)
7. Corner (3)
9. Cover (3)
10. Cozy (3)
12. Fear (11)
15. Inlet (11)
17. Hanging (9)
19. Strange (3)
21. Hut (3)
22. Exit (7)

Down

1. Colour for putting on (5)
2. Fitting a small point (3)
3. Possibly felt it not right (4)
4. Diagrammatic form of cohesion (5)
5. Get even with Reg., perhaps? (7)
8. Spinning vessels? (6)
11. Imperturbable and misanthropic (9)
13. You've not been going straight if you have to make this up (6)
14. Approved of Indian forms of support (7)
16. Former groups of actors (5)
18. Fabric that's stiff or limp (4)
20. Really includes everything (3)

Down

1. Planet (3)
2. Fresh (3)
3. Undoubtedly (4)
4. Contagion (9)
5. Water (7)
8. Outlier (6)
11. Thrifty (9)
13. Preserve with salt (6)
14. Systematic (7)
16. Brighton (5)
18. Unlucky (4)
20. Still (3)



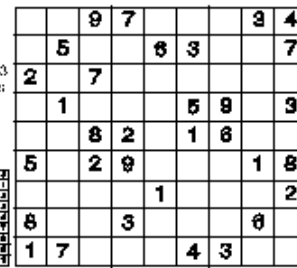
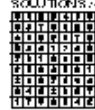
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYSTIC - Across: 6. Steady income, 8. Group of, 10. Heavy, 11. Light, 12. Thick, 14. Spoken, 16. Corner, 18. Clear, 20. Success, 22. Preparation. Down: 1. Smiley, 2. Spoken, 3. Fit, 4. Agitated, 5. Endure, 8. Sound, 11. Spoken, 13. Mouth, 15. Answer, 17. Fright, 19. Heavy, 21. Planet. QUICK - Across: 7. Cover, 9. Undoubtedly, 10. Cozy, 12. Fear, 15. Inlet, 17. Hanging, 19. Strange, 21. Hut, 22. Exit. Down: 1. Planet, 2. Fresh, 3. Undoubtedly, 4. Contagion, 5. Water, 8. Outlier, 11. Thrifty, 13. Preserve with salt, 14. Systematic, 16. Brighton, 18. Unlucky, 20. Still.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters of the circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the five words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is Q. The words are: Q. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

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Hills are aloud to sound of Jason

JASON Donovan has joined the cast of the touring production of *The Sound of Music* as Captain von Trapp in time for its Staffordshire stint at Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre.

The classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical will be presented at the Hanley venue from February 15 and March 5.

Starring opposite the Australian star is former Emmerdale

actress Verity Rushworth, who takes over from Connie Fisher as Maria.

Bradford-born Verity played Donna Windsor from the age of 12 in the rural soap, leaving the series after 10 years in 2009.

She has since appeared in *Hairspray* in the West End, playing Tracy Turnblad's friend Penny.

Contact the box office on 0844 871 7649 or online at Ambassadorickets.com.

To be or not to be Bard, that is the question

SHAKESPEARE was not the author of *Hamlet*, instead it was the work of Elizabethan playboy Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, and more shockingly still, it was based upon events from his own life.

That's the suggestion of *The Man Who Was Hamlet*, a one man performance by George Dillon in which the actor, as the ghost of de Vere, tells his story in a bid to restore his pride and reputation.

The actor, who has won praise for his other touring performance in which he delivers *The Gospel of Matthew*, will be making the case for de Vere at the Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday at 7.30pm.

Then on Wednesday, a complete flip at the Arena when Rannell Theatre present *Filip Flipo*, when a pair of painter-decorators end up trying to outdo each with dance moves that turns into pure slapstick comedy. Contact the venue's box office on 01902 321 321 (office hours) or visit www.arenatheatre.info

Recycling show

AN interactive comedy featuring recycled puppets is being showcased at Sandwell arts venue The Public next month. Birmingham based Blossom Theatre is bringing the environmentally friendly comedy, the *Recycled Puppet Show*, to the venue on Friday 11 and Saturday 12. It features a magical journey by a cast made of recycled materials.

Audience participation is central and there will be puppet making workshops before each performance. On Friday workshops start at 1pm and 6pm with performances at 2.15pm and 7.15pm. On Saturday the workshops start at 2pm and 6pm, with performances at 3.15pm and 7.15pm.

For more information call 0121 533 7161.



Shayne Ward - Wolverhampton date

An obsession with Shayne

SHAYNE Ward is back with a new single, *Obsession*, from the album of the same name, a top 10 hit in *Gotta Be Somebody* and now the announcement of his first UK tour in two years.

A show stopping performance on *The X Factor* and the release his third album late in 2010 reminded everyone of his vocal prowess of the Manchester-born winner of the second series of *The X Factor*.

Now he is taking *Obsession* out on the road starting at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on March 15.

Tickets priced £25 are available at Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk



Jason Donovan and Verity Rushworth who star in *The Sound of Music Picture: Paul Coltas*

Micky takes new date

EAST End comedian Micky Flanagan's concert at Birmingham Town Hall on February 6 has proved such a big sell-out success that the Cockney comic has added another date but at the bigger Brum venue of the Symphony Hall on March 31.

Tickets cost £17.50. Flanagan has appeared on *Mock The Week*, *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow*, had his own Radio 4 show and was one of the hits of last year's Royal Variety Performance.



New Brum date for Micky Flanagan

Celebrations for Mahler's music

THE Birmingham Mahler Cycle, celebrating the works of Austrian Bohemian composer Gustav Mahler, who died 100 years ago, continues with the performance of his final completed symphony, No.9, at the Symphony Hall on Wednesday, February 2.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Andris Nelsons in a programme which also includes Mark Anthony Turnage's cello concerto *Kai* featuring cellist Ulrich Heinen.

The Ninth will get a reprise on Thursday, February 3, at the Symphony Hall, by the CBSO under the baton of Nelsons, which will follow an in-

depth look at the work presented by Stephen Johnson.

Mahler's works are re-imagined by American jazz pianist Uri Caine at Birmingham Town Hall on February 5 and the cycle continues on February 10 at Symphony Hall when the CBSO perform *Kindertotenlieder* as part of a programme also featuring works by Schubert and Dvorak.

The late Sir Charles Mackerras was to have conducted the concert. Instead Karl-Heinz Steffens will take the baton.

Contact the box office on 0121 780 3333 or via the website www.thsh.co.uk.

Show all shook up over Elvis

MICHAEL "Memphis" King and Steve Halliday start the 76th birthday celebrations for the late King of Rock 'n' Roll Elvis Presley when their *Elvis On Tour 76 Special* comes to Bilston music venue The Robin on Saturday, January 29.

Covering all eras from the rockably early days, through the movie years, the 68 *Comeback Special* and the latter Vegas concerts, the show is a celebration of all things Elvis.

Tickets cost £18.50 on the door (a pound less in advance) and the box office can be reached at www.therobin.co.uk or on 01902 401211.

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Following the coldest December since records began and before possibly the coldest Winter on record, now is the time to take advantage of grants to insulate your home and keep your property warmer whilst still reducing your fuel bills!

Scheme 1

This scheme is aimed at ordinary working people who are outside the benefit system and is not a means tested grant. The price you pay is based on property type and represents a real saving of at least 60% on the cost of cavity wall insulation. Prices quoted below are what you actually pay. We do all the necessary paperwork and claim the excess amount from the utility companies direct leaving you with a warm house at a fraction the normal cost

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A beautifully presented flat

A beautifully presented two-bedroom first floor flat with a garage has come onto the market in a sought-after area of Walsall.

Number 20 Jesson Close, Birmingham Road, has gas central heating, uPVC double glazing and a communal entrance hall.

It also has a reception hall, spacious L-shaped breakfast kitchen, lounge/dining room, inner lobby, two double bedrooms, stylish bathroom and attractive communal gardens, and is on the market through Henderson Hynes for offers in the region of £139,950.

The communal hallway is accessed via a security intercom entry system with stairs leading to the first floor and entrance door.

Upon entering the reception

hall, there's a security intercom telephone, coving and telephone point.

In the L-shaped breakfast kitchen, there's a range of matching wall and base units with contrasting rolled-edge work surfaces, feature inset lighting, a one-and-a-half bowl sink with drainer and mixer tap, ceramic tiled splashback, integral electric double oven and gas hob with cooker hood over, plumbing for a washing machine and dishwasher and a ceramic tiled floor.

Gardens

The 21ft 6in x 11ft 8in lounge/dining room has a radiator, TV aerial point, ceiling coving and two uPVC double-glazed rear-facing windows overlooking the communal gardens.

There's a useful mirrored sliding door storage cupboard and airing cupboard concealing the wall-mounted gas

central heating combination boiler in the inner lobby. The 11ft 7in x 11ft 4in master bedroom includes built-in wardrobes with useful over-bed storage, a bedside table, feature inset lights, radiator, ceiling coving and a rear-facing uPVC double-glazed window overlooking the communal gardens.

There's also a front-facing bedroom with a radiator and ceiling coving and a stylish bathroom, which comprises a panelled corner bath with shower attachment, WC, wash basin and feature lighting.

Outside, the well-maintained and attractively landscaped communal grounds feature trees, shrubs, lawned areas and a gated entrance while there is a garage with an up-and-over door in a separate block.

For more information or to arrange a viewing, contact 01922 627100.



A two-bed first floor flat is available in Jesson Close, Birmingham Road, Walsall



There's a stylish bathroom with a panelled corner bath and shower, WC, basin and feature lighting.



The L-shaped breakfast kitchen has a range of matching wall and base units with rolled-edge work surfaces.

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Blakenall
WS3 1LZ

Bloxwich
Bloxwich Hall
Elmore Court
Elmore Green
Road
WS3 2QW

Central Walsall
Property Shop
Bridge Street
Walsall
WS1 1EW

Darlaston
45 King Street
Darlaston
WS10 8DE

Willenhall
Beechwood House
22 New Road
Willenhall
WV13 2BG



7 Queens Parade
Bloxwich
Walsall
WS3 2EX
01922 711444



Walkers Fold

Willenhall

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen/Diner ● Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking ● Sorry No DHSS

£595 PCM

Stafford Street
Walsall

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen & Bathroom ● Recently Refurbished
- Garage ● DHSS Accepted

£550 pcm

Lumley Road
Walsall

- Part Furnished Three Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom & Upstairs W.C
- Loft Conversion ● Fitted Kitchen ● Sorry No DHSS

£525 PCM

Honeybourne Way
Short Heath

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Double Glazing ● Central Heating
- Driveway with Off Road Parking
- Garage ● Rear Garden ● Sorry No DHSS

£525 PCM



The Hayes

Willenhall

- Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- Large Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Large Rear Garden ● Front Garden & Driveway
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing

£495 PCM



Smiths Flour Mill

Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Bathroom ● Kitchen
- Electric Heating ● Secure Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



Kenilworth Crescent

Reedwood

- Two Bedroom Semi ● Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen/Bathroom
- Conservatory/Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing ● Central Heating
- Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



Hawbush Road

Leamore

- Three Bed Terraced
- Lounge ● Carpeted Throughout
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



Ashburn Grove

Willenhall

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge ● Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens ● Driveway ● Off Road Parking

£495 PCM



Windrush Close

Pelsall

- Two bedroom apartment
- Lounge, Kitchen ● Bathroom
- Double glazing, Heating
- Rear Garden ● Sorry No DHSS

£475 PCM

Bagnall Street
Walsall

- Three Bed Semi
- Lounge ● Bathroom with shower
- Downstairs W.C ● Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden ● DHSS Accepted

£475 pcm

May Street
WALSALL

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom, Kitchen
- DHSS Accepted

£475 pcm

SHOWHOME OPEN DAY SATURDAY 29 JANUARY 2011

A new year – a new home?

Come along to Field Road, Bloxwich Saturday 29 January, to the showhome open day from 10am until 4pm.
The development is now completed and all remaining units will also be available to view.

- Value for money prices are from £109,950, buyer incentives available
- Two & Three Bedroom Houses
- Integral garages to the three bedroom houses
- Two off road car park spaces for the two bedroom houses
- New build 10 year guarantee

- Fully fitted kitchen including fridge freezer, washer dryer, gas hob and fan assisted oven
- Fully fitted bathrooms including floor and wall tiling
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Rear garden
- Downstairs W.C.

Viewing by Appointment to book your slot please call Steve or Rosie on 01922 711444

Upward Developments (West Midlands) Ltd 45 Reeves Street Bloxwich WS3 2D Co Reg. 2009364. Terms and conditions apply.



Valley Road

Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi
- Kitchen, and Bathroom with Shower
- Off Road Parking ● Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



Valley Road

Walsall

- Three Bed Semi
- Lounge ● Kitchen ● Bathroom
- Front & Rear Garden ● Garage
- Central Heating ● DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Alderley Crescent

Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Central Heating
- Sorry No DHSS

£450 PCM



Kempthorne Gardens

Walsall

- Recently Refurbished Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms ● Lounge
- Utility/Storage Cupboard
- Kitchen ● Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Parish Court

Blakenhall Heath

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Integrated Washer/Dryer and Cooker
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Secure Entrance and Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 pcm

Kingsley Street
Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Garage ● Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating ● DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Chantry Avenue

Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Semi
- Lounge ● Kitchen ● Downstairs W.C.
- Sun Room ● Family Bathroom ● Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking ● DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM

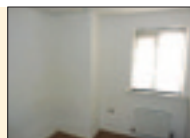


Revival Street

Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Close to Bloxwich Town Centre ● Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom ● Rear Garden
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£450 PCM



Deermead Court

Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- One Reception room
- En-Suite
- Double Glazing ● Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

£425 PCM



Blakenall Heath & Guild Court

Walker Road

- Two bedroom Apartments
- Fitted Kitchen ● Large Lounge
- Double Glazing ● Central Heating
- Allocated Parking ● DHSS Accepted

From £400 PCM

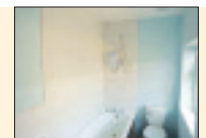


High Street

Bloxwich

- One & Three Bedroom Flats
- Large Lounge ● Kitchen with integrated cooker
- Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking ● DHSS Accepted

From £400 PCM



Harrison Street

Bloxwich

- One and Two Bedroom Flats
- Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Electric heating
- DHSS Accepted

From £300 PCM

View properties online www.goodchilds-uk.com

Call for your **Free Valuation**

We have offices in:

- Brownhills
- Cannock
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- Tamworth
- Wednesbury
- Wolverhampton
- Walsall



WALSALL

SILVERSTONE CLOSE, OFF POPLAR AVENUE

- * Excellent detached property on large corner plot
- * Quiet cul-de-sac location
- * Four bedrooms
- * Three reception rooms
- * Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- * Gas central heating, double glazed windows
- * Extensive rear garden
- * Ample off road parking

WAS £169,995 NOW £164,950 PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED



SHORT HEATH, WILLENHALL

THE COPPICE

- * Traditional style detached bungalow in cul-de-sac position
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating, uPVC double glazing
- * Lounge and dining room
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Fitted kitchen
- * Generous established rear garden
- * Viewing essential

WAS £159,995 NOW £150,995 NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL

CHAITSWORTH CLOSE

- * End town house style property
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Majority uPVC double glazing
- * Generous rear garden
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Cul-de-sac position
- * Ideal first time buy

WAS £110,000 NOW £99,950 - NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL

RAVENSBURNE GROVE

- * Reasonably appointed end town house style property
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
- * Ample parking space
- * Ideal first time purchase, viewing recommended

WAS £97,500 NOW £94,995



COPPICE FARM ESTATE, WILLENHALL

HEBDEN GROVE

- * Spacious modern style detached residence
- * Four bedrooms
- * En-suite shower room
- * Lounge and dining room
- * Conservatory
- * Through reception hall
- * Garage and block paved driveway
- * Refurbished bathroom

WAS £224,995 NOW £219,995



SUMMER HAYES

WOBBURN AVENUE

- * An attractively appointed detached bungalow
- * Popular Summer Hayes location
- * Cul-de-sac position
- * Two bedrooms (potential to convert to three)
- * Gas central heating
- * Double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Garage and ample off road parking

WAS £184,950 NOW £176,500



NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL

SANDLAND ROAD

- * Spacious traditional style semi detached property
- * Three bedrooms
- * Lounge and dining room
- * Gas central heating
- * Majority uPVC double glazing
- * Upstairs bathroom with shower
- * Large rear garden
- * Ample parking space
- * Ideal first time purchase, viewing recommended

WAS £109,500 NOW £102,000



BENTLEY, WALSALL

WREXHAM AVENUE

- * Traditional style boy
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * Two reception rooms
- * Upstairs bathroom
- * Pleasant gardens
- * No upward chain

WAS £84,950 NOW £79,995



WILLENHALL

BILSTON LANE

- * Spacious traditional style extended detached family residence
- * Pleasantly appointed accommodation
- * Four bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Majority double glazing
- * Spacious extended dining kitchen
- * Generous rear garden with timber decking
- * Garage and driveway

WAS £159,995 NOW £157,500



WILLENHALL

BIRCHFIELDS ROAD

- * Detached bungalow in delightful location off Broad Lane South
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * 20ft front lounge/dining room
- * Bathroom with shower
- * Integral garage
- * Pleasant gardens

WAS £174,950 NOW £173,500



NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL

UCHFIELD ROAD

- * Delightful extended detached bungalow
- * Two bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * Extended kitchen and dining room
- * Garage and carport
- * Pleasant gardens

WAS £210,000 NOW £199,950



BLOXWICH

61 MARLBOROUGH STREET

- * Top floor two bedroom flat
- * Convenient to Bloxwich town centre
- * Gas central heating system
- * Majority double glazing
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
- * Bathroom with shower
- * Security intercom system
- * Communal parking and gardens

WAS £69,950 NOW £64,950



WILLENHALL

LINCOLN AVENUE

- * Spacious much improved semi detached property
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * Two reception rooms
- * Upstairs bathroom with shower
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
- * Pleasant gardens

WAS £135,995 NOW £127,950



SHORT HEATH

WOODSIDE WAY

- * Pleasantly appointed semi in popular Woodside Way
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating, uPVC double glazing
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven, hob and
- * Viewing essential
- * Fitted bathroom and white suite
- * Rear garden with wooden fence
- * Block paved driveway

WAS £129,995 NOW £124,995



WILLENHALL

LEA VIEW, OFF FIVEFIELDS ROAD

- * Traditional style three semi detached property in popular location
- * Three bedrooms
- * External double glazed windows
- * Two reception rooms
- * Garage and off road parking
- * Generous established rear garden
- * Internal viewing recommended
- * No related chain

£125,000 NO CHAIN



OFF STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL

FURZEBANK WAY

- * Pleasantly appointed three house style property in popular location
- * Three bedrooms, currently converted into two bedrooms (could easily be changed back)
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * Fitted dining kitchen
- * Bathroom with white suite and shower
- * Pleasant established rear garden
- * Garage in block to side

£105,000



NEW INVENTION

LICHFIELD ROAD

- * Considerably improved three bedroom detached property
- * Three bedrooms
- * Double glazed windows
- * Central vacuum
- * Two reception rooms
- * Upstairs bathroom with shower
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven, hob and refrigerator
- * Ample parking space
- * Gas central heating, uPVC double glazing

WAS £184,950 NOW £179,950



SHORT HEATH, WILLENHALL

WALKERS FOLD

- * Much improved modern style end town house
- * Popular location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Refurbished bathroom
- * Superb uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Cul-de-sac position
- * Viewing essential

WAS £124,995 NOW £119,995

WANTED

Miss S is looking for a three bedroom property, must be in good condition.

Price guide
£110,000-£125,000.

Short Heath or New Invention. Ref: NW

WANTED

Mr & Mrs B urgently need a four bedroom detached house in Essington, they are sold.

Budget
£200,000-£275,000.

Ref: NW

WANTED

Mr W wants an investment property to modernise.

Price
£50,000-£90,000.

He can complete quickly. Ref: NW



WILLENHALL

LAWRENCE STREET

- * Traditional style town house
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * Refitted kitchen
- * Upstairs bathroom with shower
- * Off road parking
- * NO CHAIN

WAS £95,995 NOW £89,995



WILLENHALL, COPPICE FARM

KINGFISHER GROVE

- * Modern style detached property
- * Four good size bedrooms
- * Double glazing and central heating
- * Driveway and garage
- * Two reception rooms
- * Refurbished bathroom
- * En suite to master bedroom
- * Pleasant front and rear gardens
- * Viewing essential

Offers in excess of £184,995



WILLENHALL

RAVENSCROFT ROAD

- * Splendidly appointed double fronted detached property
- * Four bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Conservatory
- * Two car garage
- * Back garden with landscaped patio
- * Pleasant enclosed rear garden
- * Gas central heating, double glazing
- * Viewing essential

£249,950



WILLENHALL

RAVENSCROFT ROAD

- * Splendidly appointed, considerably improved traditional style detached property
- * Three bedrooms and loft room
- * Gas central heating, uPVC double glazed windows
- * Superb 28ft extended fitted dining kitchen
- * Luxury bathroom with jacuzzi type bath
- * Large garage and block paved driveway
- * Extensive landscaped rear garden with near double access gate
- * A lovely family home, extensively modernised to a high standard by the present owners

£247,500 VIEWING ESSENTIAL



WILLENHALL

THE MANOR, THOMPSON STREET

- * Spacious character Victorian style detached residence
- * Popular location within the Manor
- * Four bedrooms
- * Three reception rooms
- * Upstairs bathroom and shower
- * Fitted kitchen with separate breakfast nook
- * Garage and carport
- * Large private garden
- * Internal viewing essential

£239,950 NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL

MILL LANE

- * A delightful traditional style bay fronted detached property
- * Three generous bedrooms
- * uPVC double glazing
- * Gas central heating, uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Superb uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Double garage and block paved driveway
- * uPVC double glazed rear garden
- * uPVC double glazing

WAS £239,950 NOW £229,950



WILLENHALL, COPPICE FARM ESTATE

BOWNESS GROVE

- * Modern style detached family residence in popular Coppice Farm development
- * Four bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Fitted breakfast kitchen
- * Garage and double with driveway
- * Downstairs guest bedroom with WC development
- * Back garden with landscaped patio
- * Pleasant enclosed rear garden
- * Internal viewing strongly recommended

£229,950 Offers, No Chain



MANAGERS CHOICE

WILLENHALL

- * Beautifully presented modern style semi detached property
- * Two bedrooms
- * uPVC double glazed windows, gas central heating
- * Superb uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Fitted bathroom with shower
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven, hob, fridge and freezer
- * Downstairs guest cloakroom with WC
- * Off road parking

£118,750 OFFERS



Willenhall
01902 631151

Wednesfield
01902 732324

Tipton
0121 520 2255

Wednesbury
0121 505 1818

Bilston
01902 353578

Sedgley
01902 686868



SHORT HEATH

WOODSIDE WAY

- * Semi detached bungalow in popular woodlands development
- * TWO BEDROOMS
- * Gas central heating
- * 18ft front lounge
- * Garage and ample off road parking
- * Pleasant garden with woodland rear aspect
- * No related chain

£119,950 OFFERS



WILLENHALL

CADNAM CLOSE

- * Three bedroom double fronted detached family residence
- * Potential to extend to the side elevation (subject to planning regulations)
- * Gas central heating, double glazing
- * Conservatory
- * 16ft dining kitchen
- * Sizeable double width garage and ample parking
- * Internal viewing recommended
- * No chain

£159,950 OFFERS



SHORT HEATH

POOLES LANE

- * Deceptively spacious extended traditional style detached bungalow
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- * Superb refitted luxury bathroom
- * UPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Large 16ft rear lounge and additional dining area
- * Generous, low-maintained rear garden
- * Ample off road parking for several vehicles
- * Viewing essential

£199,950



SUMMER HAYES, WILLENHALL

BUTE CLOSE

- * A well maintained extended three bedroom semi detached bungalow
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Gas central heating
- * Double glazed windows
- * Lounge and dining room
- * Extended kitchen
- * Garage and off road parking
- * Cul-de-sac position

£142,500 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL



COPPICE FARM ESTATE

REDWOOD WAY

- * Modern style two bedroom semi
- * Popular location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Fitted breakfast kitchen inc oven and hob
- * Pleasant rear garden
- * Ideal first time purchase
- * No chain

£115,000



COPPICE FARM ESTATE

LOCHALSH GROVE

- * Stunning modern style link detached bungalow in cul-de-sac location
- * Superbly appointed accommodation throughout
- * Two bedrooms
- * Large upvc double glazed conservatory
- * Fully tiled shower room
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Garage and block paved driveway
- * Viewing essential

£199,950



WILLENHALL

NOOSE LANE

- * Three bedroom and town house style property
- * Gas warm air central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Rear garage
- * Lounge and dining kitchen
- * Downstairs WC
- * Internal viewing recommended
- * Ideal first time buy or buy to let

£79,950 No Chain



WILLENHALL

MEMORIAL CLOSE

- * Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
- * Cul-de-sac position
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- * Fitted breakfast kitchen inc oven and hob
- * Ample off road parking
- * PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED FOR A SIDE TWO STOREY EXTENSION

£109,500 OFFERS



WILLENHALL

VAUGHAN ROAD

- * Much improved town house style property
- * Two bedrooms
- * Superb upvc double glazed conservatory
- * Refitted kitchen and bathroom
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Block paved driveway
- * Viewing essential

£109,950



WILLENHALL

ALTON AVENUE

- * Spacious extended traditional style semi
- * Pleasantly appointed throughout
- * Generous corner position
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Garage and ample parking
- * 16ft fitted dining kitchen
- * Internal viewing essential

£139,950



SUMMER HAYES, WILLENHALL

CARDIGAN DRIVE

- * Pleasantly appointed extended semi
- * Double length garage
- * Utility and store room
- * Block paved driveway
- * 22ft extended lounge/dining room
- * Double glazing

£132,950



WILLENHALL

TRETOYS DRIVE

- * Splendidly appointed and considerably improved semi
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazing
- * Refitted kitchen inc. appliances
- * Refitted bathroom and shower
- * Garage and block paved drive

£139,995 Viewing Essential



WILLENHALL

HILL ROAD

- * Traditional style and town house
- * Three bedrooms
- * UPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Upstairs shower room
- * Fitted kitchen with selected appliances
- * 18ft through lounge
- * Bathroom with shower
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Block paved driveway

£104,950



REEDSWOOD

ROCHESTER CROFT

- * Specially appointed modern three bedroom semi
- * Extended to full ground and full first floor
- * Generous plot with ample parking to double garage
- * UPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Spacious fitted kitchen inc selected appliances
- * Extended lounge with adjacent study room
- * Generous rear garden with timber decked patio
- * Viewing absolutely essential

£134,950

WANTED

Mr & Mrs P want a bungalow or house in Essington or Shareshill. Price guide up to **£250,000**. Ref: GW

WANTED

Mr & Mrs E looking for a three bedroom detached home in Wednesfield or Willenhall, good condition, preferably near to Broad Lane North or South. price guide up to **£180,000** Ref: NW

WANTED

Mr H & Miss W want a two or three bedroom property near to Pool Hayes School, they have nothing to sell, price guide max **£110,000**. Ref: BJ



WILLENHALL

DOUGLAS DAVIS CLOSE

- * Pleasantly appointed town house style property
- * Three bedrooms
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * 18ft through lounge
- * Bathroom with shower
- * Front and rear gardens
- * Ideal first time purchase

£87,500



REEDSWOOD, WALSALL

RAGSTONE CLOSE

- * An impressive modern detached family residence in cul de sac position
- * Four bedrooms
- * Master bedroom with ensuite shower room
- * Spacious well equipped fitted dining kitchen
- * Spacious 12ft rear lounge/dining room
- * Garage and off road parking
- * Gas central heating
- * Upvc double glazed windows
- * Viewing absolutely essential

£199,950 OFFERS



WALSALL

IVEYLEIGH, BENTLEY MILL LANE

- * Pleasantly appointed traditional style semi
- * Three bedrooms
- * Three reception rooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Central UPVC double glazing
- * Refitted kitchen inc dishwasher and refrigerator
- * Refitted bathroom with shower
- * Generous rear garden
- * Ample off road parking

£134,995



WILLENHALL

MALVERN CLOSE

- * Three bedroom semi detached property in pleasant cul-de-sac location
- * In need of modernisation
- * Excellent potential to improve
- * Majority UPVC double glazing
- * Lounge and dining room
- * Kitchen garden
- * Off road parking

WAS £102,500 NOW £97,500



BENTLEY

BEVIN ROAD

- * Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- * Ideal first time purchase
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC single glazed windows
- * 13ft fitted breakfast kitchen
- * Pleasant rear garden
- * No related chain

£87,500

PROPERTIES TO RENT

CROSS STREET, WILLENHALL	
Second floor studio apartment	£295 pcm
HIGHBURY, SCHOOL STREET, WILLENHALL	
One bedroom first floor flat	£350 pcm
BOW STREET, WILLENHALL	
Two bedroom mid terraced cottage	£375 pcm
PRESTWOOD ROAD, WEDNESFIELD	
One bedroom ground floor flat	£395 pcm
LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL	
Three bedroom traditional style terrace	£425 pcm
RAVENSBORNE GROVE, WILLENHALL	
Three bedroom modern style semi	£450 pcm
FARMHOUSE ROAD, WILLENHALL	
Three bedroom mid terraced house	£490 pcm
STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL	
Three bedroom mid town house	£475 pcm
LAKESIDE CLOSE, WILLENHALL	
Three bedroom modern style semi	£575 pcm
SILVERSTONE CLOSE, WALSALL	
Four bedroom detached	£625 pcm
SORRY NO DHSS TENANTS ACCEPTED	

Willenhall
01902 631151

Wednesfield
01902 732324

Tipton
0121 520 2255

Wednesbury
0121 505 1818

Bilston
01902 353578

Sedgley
01902 686868



BENTLEY

MORRIS AVENUE

- * Spacious traditional style semi
- * Pleasantly appointed accommodation
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC single glazing
- * Fitted bathroom with jacuzzi roll top bath
- * Fitted breakfast kitchen inc oven and hob
- * Block paved driveway

£119,995



WILLENHALL

MERE CLOSE, OFF POOL HAYES LANE

- * Traditional style semi in popular location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Double glazing
- * Generous rear garden
- * Views overlooking local field to the fore
- * Viewing recommended

£139,995 NO CHAIN



SHORT HEATH

POOLES LANE

- * Much improved traditional style semi detached property
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating, external UPVC double glazed windows
- * Superb 11' shaped fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of appliances
- * Refitted bathroom with jacuzzi type bath
- * Spacious double length garage
- * Generous rear garden
- * Ample off road parking

£139,950 OFFERS

Details of all our properties are available on our website:

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pauldubberley
the estate agent

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01902 633323
or email: willenhall@pauldubberley.co.uk

Cannock
Winsor Avenue, Hednesford



- Modern bungalow
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Bathroom
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£129,950

Willenhall, Ashburn
Grove, Kingfisher **NEW**



- Modern semi detached
 - 3 bedroom
 - Double glazing
 - No upward chain
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£129,950

Willenhall
Oakridge Drive **REDUCED**



- Modern extended detached
 - Three bedrooms
 - UPVC double glazing
 - Gas central heating
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£137,950

Willenhall
Barnett Road, Portobello



- 3 Bedroom Semi
 - Corner Plot
 - Reception Hall
 - Through Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£139,995

Essington
Broad Lane, Essington **REDUCED**



- Detached bungalow
 - Sought after location
 - No upward chain
 - 2 bedrooms
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£145,000

Willenhall, Rosewood Drive, Coppice
Farm, New Invention



- Modern semi detached
 - Three bedroom
 - Sought after Location
 - Majority UPVC double glazing
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£149,950

Wolverhampton
Argil Close, Wednesfield



- Modern detached
 - Three bedrooms
 - Guest W.C.
 - Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£162,500

Walsall
Arnwood Close **NEW**



- Detached bungalow
 - 3 bedrooms
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£164,995

Willenhall
School Street



- Purpose built top floor apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and close to Willenhall town. Ideal for landlords or first time buyers the property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace and balcony, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and bathroom with shower, allocated parking space and garage. VIRTUAL TOUR AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£59,995

Walsall
Wolverhampton Road **NEW**



- ***BUILDING PLOT OPEN TO OFFERS*** A rare opportunity to purchase a plot of land in a cul-de-sac with planning permission for a luxurious 3 bedroom detached family home (with luxurious detached home either side) with off road parking at the front and the rear. To view plans and drawings contact the Willenhall office.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£59,995

Willenhall
Chaucer Avenue **NEW**



- IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYER OR LANDLORD/VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE A superb one bedroom apartment having the benefit of no upward chain, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This well maintained property briefly comprises, reception hall, fitted kitchen, allocated lounge, double bedroom, bathroom with shower and communal gardens.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£64,995

Willenhall
Sowers Gardens, Manor Farm



- ***VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE*** A very well presented three bedroom modern terrace property having the benefit of no upward chain, gas central heating and double glazing both where specified. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hallway, lounge, L-shape kitchen/diner, guest W.C., contemporary first floor family bathroom, garage and off road parking to the rear.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£80,000

Walsall
Horton Place, Darlaston



- An extended three bedroom and terrace property benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises the following: Reception hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen and downstairs bathroom. On the first floor there are three bedrooms and a re-fitted shower room. Off road parking and rear garden. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£84,950

Willenhall
Clothier Street **REDUCED**



- A refurbished and upgraded 3 bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This splendid property briefly comprises, lounge with feature fireplace, re-fitted kitchen/diner, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to front. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£104,950

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Darlaston
Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston



- ***NO UPWARD CHAIN AND OPEN TO OFFERS*** Presenting a first floor flat having the benefit of double glazing and part central heating. This property further comprises communal entrance with intercom, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower and communal gardens. VIRTUAL TOUR AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£59,995

Willenhall
Bilston Lane, Willenhall



- Paul Dubberley & Co. are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £70,000 for 111 Bilston Lane. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Paul Dubberley & Co. 14 New Road, Willenhall, Walsall, WV13 2SD 01902 633323 before conclusion of contracts.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£77,950

Willenhall
Vaughan Road **REDUCED**



- A three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of gas central heating, part UPVC double glazing and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to the front.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£83,950

Willenhall
Lakeside Close



- ***35% SHARE PROTECT*** A three bedroom modern detached family home in a cul-de-sac having the benefit of a fitted shower room, double glazing, gas central heating and double glazing both where specified. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hallway, lounge, L-shape kitchen/diner, guest W.C., contemporary first floor family bathroom, garage and off road parking to the rear.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£65,000

Essington
Burnsips Road



- An excellent 3 bedroom modern detached family home in a cul-de-sac having the benefit of a fitted shower room, double glazing, gas central heating and double glazing both where specified. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to the rear.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£320,000

Willenhall
Dursley Close **REDUCED**



- Presenting an extended and much improved 3 bedroom detached home, located in a quiet cul-de-sac location. The property briefly comprises gas central heating and central heating and has accommodation to comprise, reception hall, 295 lounge, dining room, recently re-fitted kitchen, utility room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower and off road parking to the rear. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£154,995

Leamore
Archer Road



- Good size detached and improved with further potential for extensions and possible building plot at rear subject to planning permission, three bedroom and terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, contemporary, fitted kitchen, utility room, shower room, W.C., 3 bedrooms, family bathroom and pool size rear garden with access for vehicles.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£144,995

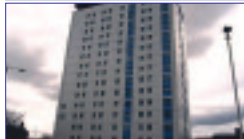
Willenhall
Albion Road



- A three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£64,950

Willenhall
The Pinnacle, Gomer Street



- We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £40,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Agents address: 14 New Road Willenhall Agents Telephone Number: 01902 633323
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£47,950

Willenhall
Noose Lane



- A well presented 2 bedroom end of terrace property having the benefit of a fitted intruder alarm, majority UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for landlord or first time buyer the property further comprises, reception hall, lounge with French doors, 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£94,000

Willenhall
Victoria Street



- A brand new 3 bedroom luxury modern terrace family home, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, fitted intruder alarm and with no upward chain. Three excellent properties briefly comprises, reception hallway, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms (master with ensuite shower room), family bathroom, rear garden and allocated parking spaces to rear.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£99,995

Willenhall
Magness Crescent



- An extended three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, fitted kitchen, extended lounge with feature fireplace, three bedrooms, family bathroom with allocated shower cubicle, front and rear gardens, off road parking and integral garage. Viewing 01902 633323.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£129,995

Willenhall, Leven Drive, Farm **NEW**



- VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE A much improved 3 bedroom modern detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and fitted intruder alarm. The well presented home on the outskirts of the Coppice Farm estate briefly comprises, reception hall, spacious lounge/diner, re-fitted kitchen, contemporary 3 bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£134,995

Willenhall
Gipsy Lane **REDUCED**



- Three bedroom semi detached having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, lounge, off road parking, garage and rear garden.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£109,995

Darlaston
Willenhall Street



- A Deceptively Spacious 2 Bedroom Semi Detached
 - Gas Central Heating
 - Double Glazing (where specified)
 - Excellent Local Amenities
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

£114,995

King Edward Street, Darlaston



- Period 2 Bedroom (and a loft room) Semi Detached Home
 - Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
 - Lounge with Feature Fireplace
 - Dining Room
- OFFERS INVITED

Wolverhampton, Victoria Road, Wednesfield **REDUCED**



- VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE A rare opportunity to purchase a superb period 3 bedroom semi detached home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and double glazing and a property to high specification. The well presented property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, modern kitchen with integrated appliances, allocated bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom and 100 sq ft garage. INTERNAL VIEWING IS A MUST.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£173,995

Willenhall
Dilloways Lane



- An extended three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, utility room, extended lounge with feature fireplace, three bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking and two garages to rear. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
- OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£109,995

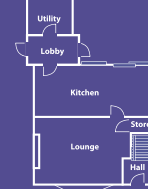
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Three-bed bungalow for sale at £165,000



The rear garden has a lawn, paved patio area, borders, shrubs and shed.



A large front garden and lengthy driveway lead to a detached side garage.

Viewing of a detached three-bedroom bungalow within easy reach of Walsall and Willenhall town centres is being recommended by the selling agent to fully appreciate the size of accommodation on offer.

The property, in Arnwood Close, off Wolverhampton Road West, has gas central

heating, double glazing, a detached garage, side driveway and rear garden, and is on the market for £165,000 through Fraser Wood.

A double-glazed entrance door leads into a side reception hall with wood flooring and doors leading off to three bedrooms, a bathroom and lounge.

In the 7ft 8in x 8ft 1in kitchen, there's a range of fitted wall and base units, plumbing for a washing machine, gas cooker point, ceramic tiled splashbacks, a uPVC double-

glazed window overlooking the rear garden and a side window facing the driveway.

The lounge measures 11ft 4in x 15ft 9in with an additional dining area of 8ft x 7ft 8in, radiator, double-glazed window and door overlooking the rear garden, gas point with fire surround and a further door leading to the kitchen.

There are three bedrooms, with the largest measuring 13ft 9in x 8ft 3in and the second one including two built-in double wardrobes. The bathroom con-

sists of a suite comprising a WC, pedestal wash basin, panned bath and wood flooring.

Outside, the property is approached via a large lawned front garden with a side driveway providing off-road parking for several vehicles and leading to a detached side garage with an up-and-over door.

A gateway leads to a rear garden with a lawn, paved patio area, borders, shrubs and timber shed. For more information or to arrange a viewing, call 01902 367367.

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<p>NEW NEW NEW NEW</p> <p>BIRMINGHAM ROAD, SOUTH WALSALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well presented spacious five/bed detached dormer gas CH & upvc dig Three reception rooms spacious breakfast kitchen separate utility and w/c family Bathroom and Shower room Carriage driveway Garage Attractive rear garden <p>Offers around \$359,950</p>	<p>NEW NEW NEW NEW</p> <p>CORNWALL ROAD, SOUTH WALSALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautifully presented four bed detached dormer gas ch & upvc dig enclosed porch two Reception Rooms Breakfast Kitchen ground floor Bathroom and two en suites driveway Garage Attractive rear garden <p>Offers around \$299,950</p>	<p>NEW NEW NEW NEW</p> <p>CHERRY TREE AVENUE, WALSALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautifully presented three bed Gas ch and upvc dig Lounge/Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Conservatory Shower room Upstairs Shower Driveway Garden <p>Offers around \$149,950</p>
<p>BACK ON MARKET</p> <p>JESSON CLOSE, BIRMINGHAM ROAD, WALSALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautifully presented two bed first floor flat Overlooking communal gardens Gas CH & DG Hall Lounge/Dining Room spacious fitted Kitchen Bathroom gated entrance with parking Garage <p>Offers around \$139,950</p>	<p>REDUCED REDUCED REDUCED</p> <p>FLAXHALL STREET, ALUMWELL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bed semi Offers tremendous potential Gas central heating and mainly upvc double glazing Hall Lounge Dining room Downstairs wc Upstairs Bathroom Garage and driveway Pure and rear gardens <p>Offers Around \$74,950</p>	<p>REDUCED REDUCED REDUCED</p> <p>HIGH VIEW, HIGHGATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well presented two bed ground floor apartment Communal Lounge and gardens Suitable for 55 years + Hall Upvc dig Electric stove delightful Lounge overlooking rear garden Kitchen Shower room Good sized communal <p>Offers around \$64,950</p>

RENTAL PROPERTIES

<p>BIRCHILLS</p> <p>Dalkeith Street</p> <p>2 Bed</p> <p>End Terrace</p> <p>\$395 PCM</p> <p>TOWN CENTRE</p> <p>Waterfront Way</p> <p>2 Bed Apartment</p>	<p>PLECK</p> <p>Caledon Street</p> <p>3 Bed</p> <p>Semi</p> <p>\$450 PCM</p> <p>PLECK</p> <p>Dora Street</p>	<p>3 Bed End Terrace</p> <p>\$450 PCM</p> <p>DARLASTON</p> <p>Franchise Street</p> <p>2 Bed</p> <p>Terrace</p> <p>\$430 PCM</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>Birch Coppice Gardens</p> <p>4 Bed Semi</p> <p>\$600 PCM</p> <p>LEAMORE</p> <p>Harden Road</p> <p>3 Bed Semi</p> <p>\$495 PCM</p>	<p>NR. TOWN CENTRE</p> <p>Dandys</p> <p>3 Bed Terrace</p> <p>\$450 PCM</p> <p>ELMSDALE</p> <p>Birmingham</p> <p>1 Bed Flat</p> <p>\$395 PCM</p>
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At 6.00 pm precisely

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LOT 4 96 Walstead Road, Walsall

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Walsall

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This three-bedroomed home has many attractive features, no upward chain and considerable potential.

Detached home with great view

Located in a sought after area with easy access to the city centre, this impressive detached residence stands in a prominent position with a pleasant outlook and private rear views over woodland.

The three-bedroomed home, in Henwood Road, Compton, has many attractive features and considerable potential.

Estate agent Rees Page is managing the sale, inviting offers of £239,000, with no upward chain.

Gas central heating is fitted throughout and there is UPVC double-glazing where mentioned.

On approach, an attractive shaped lawn

and paved drive with parking for several vehicles leads to a two-car garage with four double-glazed windows, an elevating door and a door to the garden.

Entering through a canopy porch, there is a hallway measuring 13ft 8in x 6ft, with wood strip flooring and pine cladding under the staircase.

Measuring 6ft x 5ft 9in, the cloakroom has a wash basin set in a vanity unit with built-in cupboards and a low-level WC.

A spacious L-shaped living room, measuring 19ft x 17ft, has a marble fireplace with flame-effect gas fire, a double-glazed bow window with wide display sill and a double-glazed picture window with central sliding door to the conservatory.

With dimensions of 15ft 10in x 10ft, this has window blinds, a central ceiling fan,

double-glazed windows and a sliding door to the garden.

In the kitchen, measuring 10ft 5in x 10ft 5in, there is an excellent range of base units incorporating a stainless steel sink and space and plumbing for appliances.

Upstairs, there is a galleried landing measuring 12ft 3in x 6ft 3in leading to three large bedrooms, the second of which has a fitted cupboard housing the gas central heating unit.

In the bathroom, a white suite comprises a low-level WC, panelled bath, pedestal wash basin and fully tiled shower cubicle.

At the rear of the house, a private garden has two paved areas and pathway, a shaped lawn with borders, a shed, external lighting and cold water supply.

Contact the agent on 01902 577775



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- EN SUITE OFF MASTER BEDROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN & UTILITY
- GROUND FLOOR W.C.
- GARAGE CONVERTED TO OFFICE/STORE ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING

OFFERS £219,950



KEWSTOKE ROAD, WILLENHALL

- Four Bedroomed Detached House
- Refitted Kitchen with Granite worktops and integral Appliances
- Refitted guests W.C. and Bathroom
- Side Driveway and Garage
- Fore and Rear Gardens
- UPVC double glazing and Gas central Heating

OFFERS £209,950



ST GEORGES STREET, DARLASTON

- Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Wide Reception Hall
- L-Shaped Lounge/Dining Room
- Integral Garage

OFFERS £119,950



ROSEWOOD DRIVE, COPPICE FARM

- Two Bedroomed Semi Detached
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fore and Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

OFFERS £109,950

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ARNWOOD CLOSE, WALSALL

- Three bedroomed Detached Bungalow
- UPVC double glazing and Gas central heating
- Lounge and Dining Room
- Garage
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off road Parking

OFFERS £165,000



GREENHILL CLOSE, WILLENHALL

- Link detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Popular area close to Summer Hayes
- Central heating and double glazing
- Garage
- Gardens front and rear

OFFERS £139,950



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- 70% shared ownership Contact us for information
- Two Bedroomed Bungalow
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Attractive communal Gardens
- communal parking

OFFERS £99,950 for a 70% Share



COBDEN STREET, DARLASTON

- Spacious Mid Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
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- In need of Refurbishment

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£50,000 loans made to aid local parents

Parents looking to put down a deposit to help their children buy a new home from Barratt West Midlands will now be able to apply for an unsecured personal loan of up to £50,000 from Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC, it has been announced.

The tie-up means that for the first time parents can borrow the money to help their children onto the property ladder without either having to re-mortgage or put a second charge on their own homes.

The product is the only of its kind currently on the market and is specifically designed to address current mortgage restrictions.

Significant numbers of creditworthy first-time buyers are largely dependent on parental support because they do not have the 20 or 25 per cent deposit which lenders now require.

But many parents – who regard home ownership for their children as a sensible medium-term investment – are often reluctant to fund a deposit if any loan has to be secured against the principal family property.

Under the Hitachi Capital loan scheme, the typical buyer will only need to raise a deposit of five per cent.

An 80 per cent mortgage is available from a number of High Street lenders.

And the remaining 15 per cent of the purchase price can be met through an unsecured loan from Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC to the buyer's parents or legal guardian.

Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC is offering unsecured loans of up to £50,000 for a period of 12 years at a fixed rate of 5.4 per cent.

There are no early repayment charges and unlimited overpayments are allowed at any time during the agreement without penalty.

Graydon Worthing, sales director of Barratt West Midlands, says: "This product is ideal for parents who have sufficient income to service a loan but no available capital."

"It may also suit people who have capital which is tied-up, and which they do not want to access in the short-term."

Gerald Grimes, managing director

of Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC, says: "This innovative Barratt loan gives parents an affordable option to support families getting on the housing ladder without dipping into hard earned savings."

Parents or former guardians who wish to assist their children with a home purchase from Barratt West Midlands will be eligible for the loans.

Applicants must be UK residents, homeowners and have a good credit history.

Developments featuring this offer from Barratt West Midlands in the Black Country include: The Brides, Bell Lane, Bloxwich, WS3 2JW. Tel: 01922 497 516

The Brides offers a selection of one-bedroom apartments priced from £99,950 and two-, three- and four-bedroom houses priced from £144,950.

Canal Walk, Purlin Wharf, Off Hale-sowen Road, Dudley, DY2 9PQ. Tel: 01384 411 538

Canal Walk has just two, two-bedroom apartments remaining priced from £109,995 for January only. Dukes Park, Constantine Way, Bilston, WV14 8GX. Tel: 01902 491 221

Dukes Park has a selection of two-, three-, four- and five-bedroom houses priced from £138,250.

Fordbrook Court, Station Road, Rushall, WS4 1ES. Tel: 01922 721 873

Fordbrook Court offers a selection of two- and three-bedroom houses priced from £139,950.

Fox Walk, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath, B64 5DF. Tel: 01384 411538

Fox Walk offers a single two-bedroom apartment priced at £119,950 and a selection of three-bedroom houses priced from £139,950. Fusion, Sun Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1AA. Tel: 01902 451 396

Fusion offers a selection of one- and two-bedroom apartments priced from £91,950.

For more information, contact the sales office open daily from 10am to 5pm or call the sales hotline on 0844 811 9933 open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm or go to www.barratthomes.co.uk

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● Gas central heating
● Open plan lounge to kitchen
● Double glazing
£400PCM



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● Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
● Two reception rooms
● Kitchen with most appliances
● Fitted Kitchen
● Downstairs bathroom
£400pcm



**HEREFORD
WALSALL**
● Unfurnished two bedroom house
● Two reception rooms
● Kitchen with most appliances
● Gas central heating
● Double glazing
£400 pcm



**WALSALL
WOODCROFT COURT**
● Unfurnished One bed apartment
● Ground floor with Double glazing
● Gas central heating
● Open plan lounge to kitchen
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SUBARU IMPREZA COSWORTH STI GS 400

ROAD TEST

The hottest Subaru Impreza hatch offers performance to rival a supercar, says **Richard M Hammond**

Cosworth to retain the bragging rights

For many years, Subaru punched well above its weight in the UK.

A relatively small importer of cars to Britain, the Japanese four-wheel drive specialist was held in particularly high regard by performance cars fans, chiefly because of its Impreza WRX and STi saloon models.

Boasting outrageous standard performance, cutting edge drive-trains and easily tuned engines, these high performance Imprezas also offered four-door practicality, relatively cheap 'bang for buck' purchase prices and the street-cred that came with an extensive and highly successful rallying history.

More recently, Subaru has been cutting a lower profile. Although still a proudly niche manufacturer, it has been concentrating on its more mainstream models – the Forester crossover and spacious Legacy estate – while the high performance side of its operation has been gradually fading from sight, particularly without a manufacturer presence in the World Rally Championship.

All the while, however, there have been Subaru WRX and WRX STi versions of the Impreza available. But the model has not proved as popular with high performance fans since the switch to a hatchback, rather than a saloon design.

It's a situation that has left Subaru



Only 75 CS400s will be sold in the UK



The leather and aluminium interior



The Cosworth Impreza is capable of giving the Lamborghini Gallardo a run for its money

scratching its head; the UK has long had a love-affair with the hot-hatch, the preference for saloon versions of the Subaru is a curious occurrence.

Subaru's answer has been to tweak the line-up – offering the WRX STi model as a saloon to appease fans and removing the Impreza name from the high performance models, making them a sub-brand in their own right. But not before having one last play with the hatchback model.

The Cosworth Impreza STi CS400 will prove a rare sight on the roads. Only 75 are being crafted for the UK market and with that exclusivity comes an exclusive price tag. Just shy of £50,000 in fact. That's more than three and a half times the price of an entry level Impreza five-door. It's hard to think of another model with such a gulf between the crucial numbers in the brochure. But then,

it's a very special vehicle. The Cosworth Impreza has not merely been breathed on by the high performance engineer, it's received a comprehensive going over.

Power is up 33 per cent over the (hardly under-powered) WRX STi. Cosworth has redeveloped the engine internals with high performance pistons built in a similar manner to those in the company's F1 engines, stronger, forged con-rods, a unique main bearing design, heavy-duty bolts and gaskets, a high-pressure oil pump, a redesigned exhaust and an all-new turbocharging system.

The result is 395bhp from a four-cylinder unit. 62mph is reached in 3.7 seconds. It tips its nearest competitor, the Mitsubishi Evo FQ400, to the post, and will give a Lamborghini Gallardo costing three times as much a run for its money. The power delivery is

impressive. The model's four-wheel drive system features a 50-50 split as default, launching the car with an initially startling ferocity. It's a little slower to build at lower rpm, but from 3,500rpm the engine really starts to pull, whipping its way through the six-speed transmission in a flurry of induction roar and waste-gate hiss.

The intelligent four-wheel minimises wheel-spin from standing starts, but also bolsters grip through the corners. The Impreza flat-four engine gets the model off to a good start with a low centre of gravity improving cornering ability. The WRX STi version builds on that core ability with the same advanced four-wheel drive system to monitor wheel slip.

But the Cosworth Impreza truly exploits the arrangement with its huge power reserves and Cosworth tuned suspension

with special Eibach springs and Bilstein damper inserts. It takes a lot to provoke under-steer; far too much corner entry speed to be advisable. On a demanding country road the nose will simply tuck in time and time again. On track, the Cosworth Impreza ought to be unshakeable. Get it wrong and 355mm front brakes will bring the car to an abrupt halt.

And, in time honoured Impreza tradition, all of this is delivered from a practical, useable base. Fuel economy is actually not too frightening; the five-door layout with a decent boot is in place. Inside is a slightly more lavish interior with leather bucket seats and aluminium, but nothing to make popping to the supermarket an ordeal. Sure, interior quality is not up there with high performance Audis or BMWs that will cost similar sums – and the steering could be considered a little light at speed although this makes it better around town – but the Subaru will retain bragging right in terms of performance.

Even the ride is surprisingly comfortable, for a car with so much pent-up aggression at least.

FACTS AT A GLANCE: STi CS400, £49,995. Engine: 2.5-litre diesel unit developing 395bhp and 400lb/ft. Transmission: Six-speed manual transmission as standard, driving all four wheels. Performance: Maximum speed 155mph (electronically limited), 0-62mph 3.7 seconds. Economy: 27.4mpg. CO2 rating: 243g/km.

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The new Focus will offer a blend of hi-tech features and advanced driving dynamics



The new Ford Focus will offer the highest standards of quality and craftsmanship while boosting its renowned handling

Focus goes to new level

The dynamic all-new Ford Focus comes to the UK in March, with its two-model line-up of sporty five-door hatchback and stylish five-door estate.

With more than 1.4 million examples sold in Britain since its launch in 1998, the Focus has become a favourite with consumers for its outstanding value, comfort and safety, and for being fun to drive. The all-new car will also

offer the highest standards of quality and detailed craftsmanship, outstanding fuel economy, and take the legendary Focus driving dynamics to a new level.

Stephen Odell, chairman of Ford of Europe, said: "We are very excited about introducing the new Ford Focus to the European market given the strong heritage this model has here."

"With its desirable combination of dynamic design, outstanding driver appeal, unmatched levels of technology and impressive fuel economy, we believe that the new car will not only delight our existing customers but also expand the appeal of the Focus brand to a whole new generation of Ford customers."

Developed in Europe, for sale in over 120 markets worldwide with 80 per cent parts commonality, the next-generation Focus is created from Ford Motor Company's new global C segment platform.

This platform will underpin at least 10 vehicles around the world and account for two million units of annual production by 2012.

Focus bodystyles share a sporty and dynamic character, marking the next evolution of Ford's acclaimed kinetic design form language, which has contributed to the growing popularity of the company's latest small and medium global cars.

At 1,484mm high (on 17-inch wheels), 4,358mm long and 1,823mm wide (without mirrors), the new five-door model is 16mm lower, 21mm longer and 16mm narrower than the current Focus. Its wheel-base is 8mm longer at 2,648mm.

The dynamic quality of the exterior is reinforced by the distinctive design of the interior.

Controlling

The new Focus has a modern, cockpit-style interior incorporating Ford's latest generation Human Machine Interface (HMI) system with twin five-way toggle switches on the steering wheel controlling the two main vehicle displays located in the instrument cluster and high in the centre of the instrument panel.

When it was introduced in 1998, the original Ford Focus brought new levels of agility and responsiveness to the medium hatch market and the next-generation car plans to raise the benchmark once more.

An advanced Torque Vectoring Control system fitted as standard enhances cornering stability and agility and Ford engineers have also retuned and enhanced the innovative suspension concepts, developing optimised new designs for the 'Control Blade' multi-link rear suspension and the semi-isolated front subframe. The chassis design incorporates a completely new Electric Power Assist steering system (EPAS).

In addition to the highly efficient petrol and diesel powertrain offering, the new Focus range incorporates other features from the Ford EcoBoost Technology programme to help minimise fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

The Focus is the first Ford model to standardise Auto-Start-Stop technology across a significant part of the range. All vehicles with the 1.6-litre Ford EcoBoost petrol engine and the 1.6-litre TDCi diesel engine are equipped with Auto-Start-Stop, with CO2 emissions starting at just 109g/km on the diesel model.

The new Focus features an innovative digital camera system which supports five driver assistance features that help deliver improved driver confidence and safety.

Mounted next to the rear view mirror, the forward facing digital camera captures a view of the road ahead which is analysed by a sophisticated on-board computer.

Monitor

The information from the camera can then be used to support the driver by helping them to stay safely in lane, remain alert at the wheel, monitor the latest traffic signs and operate headlamp high beam.

There are no fewer than five advanced driver assistance features, including Lane Departure Warning, which warns the driver via a vibration in the steering wheel if the front view camera detects an unintentional drift out of the lane.

The system is deactivated at speeds below 37 mph so it does not interfere in urban conditions.

The lane keeping aid extends the functionality of the Lane Departure Warning system by using the EPAS system to actively steer the vehicle back into the lane, rather than just triggering an alert.

Driver Alert is a feature that detects when a driver is becoming tired or even falling asleep. By monitoring the vehicle's position relative to the road markings, the system can recognise the kind of sideways drifting which is typical when a driver is feeling drowsy or their concentration levels start to drop and trigger a visible and audible warning process.

Traffic Sign Recognition, meanwhile, uses the digital camera to identify traffic signs on either side of the road and on bridges, providing the driver with information such as the latest detected speed limit, and overtaking regulations via the instrument cluster display.



There are five driver assistance systems

Motoring news

Don't rely on instinct when buying

BRITISH car buyers still rely too much on their 'trust instinct' and fail to ask for bills of sale or service history documentation when buying a used vehicle.

Many cling on to the idea of a 'gentleman's agreement' for fear of offending the seller when they should treat the transaction as a formal business agreement.

Vehicle information expert HPI warned that many drivers were distracted by gadgets and a shiny exterior.

But a top-of-the-range vehicle specification is no consolation if it turns out the vehicle has been stolen, has outstanding finance against it, or has been clocked or cloned.

Attention

An HPI check offers used car buyers the protection they need.

Consumer services manager Nicola Johnson said: "It is well known that initial impressions are formed in the first 20 seconds of meeting, and it may be in the first 20 seconds of viewing a vehicle that a car buyer will decide to buy."

"After this, all attention to detail flies out of the window and buying with the head gives way to buying with the heart."

"All too often, used car buyers are taken in by shiny paintwork and a sparkling interior when shopping for their next car, as this naturally suggests everything is in order."

However, it is important for buyers to remain neutral and inspect a vehicle carefully, as a hidden history can be lurking just beneath the surface.

The risks of not doing so remain significant.

One in four cars checked was on outstanding finance and anyone who buys a car still on finance risks losing the car as the finance company owns the vehicle.

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DELIVERY/RELEASE DEALS	
40-44 HYUNDAI i10 CLIMAX 1.0, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0, 2.4, 2.8, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, 10.0, 10.5, 11.0, 11.5, 12.0, 12.5, 13.0, 13.5, 14.0, 14.5, 15.0, 15.5, 16.0, 16.5, 17.0, 17.5, 18.0, 18.5, 19.0, 19.5, 20.0, 20.5, 21.0, 21.5, 22.0, 22.5, 23.0, 23.5, 24.0, 24.5, 25.0, 25.5, 26.0, 26.5, 27.0, 27.5, 28.0, 28.5, 29.0, 29.5, 30.0, 30.5, 31.0, 31.5, 32.0, 32.5, 33.0, 33.5, 34.0, 34.5, 35.0, 35.5, 36.0, 36.5, 37.0, 37.5, 38.0, 38.5, 39.0, 39.5, 40.0, 40.5, 41.0, 41.5, 42.0, 42.5, 43.0, 43.5, 44.0, 44.5, 45.0, 45.5, 46.0, 46.5, 47.0, 47.5, 48.0, 48.5, 49.0, 49.5, 50.0, 50.5, 51.0, 51.5, 52.0, 52.5, 53.0, 53.5, 54.0, 54.5, 55.0, 55.5, 56.0, 56.5, 57.0, 57.5, 58.0, 58.5, 59.0, 59.5, 60.0, 60.5, 61.0, 61.5, 62.0, 62.5, 63.0, 63.5, 64.0, 64.5, 65.0, 65.5, 66.0, 66.5, 67.0, 67.5, 68.0, 68.5, 69.0, 69.5, 70.0, 70.5, 71.0, 71.5, 72.0, 72.5, 73.0, 73.5, 74.0, 74.5, 75.0, 75.5, 76.0, 76.5, 77.0, 77.5, 78.0, 78.5, 79.0, 79.5, 80.0, 80.5, 81.0, 81.5, 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All clothing collected by Cash4Clothes is sold to importers and wholesalers in Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia for reuse as clothing. Regardless of whether clothes are given to charities, clothing banks, council collections or Cash4Clothes, this is where the goods are sold. 80% of unwanted clothing goes for reuse as clothes and the other 20% enters the recycling industry for mattress stuffing, automotive applications, socks, blankets and the industrial wipe trade.

As a nation we throw away over 1 million tonnes of clothes every year and DEFRA consider textiles as the fastest growing item entering the waste stream.

If you want to donate part or all of your proceeds from a Cash4Clothes collection to a charity, there are options on the web which enable this to be done efficiently - www.justgiving.com can convert a £10 donation into a gift of £12 to a charity of your choice if you are a UK taxpayer.

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RUGBY

Cup triumph for Bloxwich in tight fight

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD 5 BLOXWICH 13

On their previous visit to Barton-under-Needwood, Bloxwich went down in a low scoring cup game.

This time, Bloxwich may have hidden their luck, but also forced Barton into poor play selection to gain a hard-earned win.

The first 20 minutes attracted little spectator interest as both teams failed to threaten their opposition 22 metre area.

Bloxwich were still trying to find their rhythm when a lively Barton back division moved the ball well and went over for an unconverted try. Then a last ditch challenge forced a dropped ball as Barton missed the opportunity of a second try.

A double scrum penalty-free kick count, for technical infringements, did little to help the visitors as they chased the game. Forward passes and knock-ons added to frustration, but the resulting scrums were of little advantage to the home side as a full eight Bloxwich shove won the ball back on several occasions.

Unsurprisingly, it was a Bloxwich front row, Ben Cartwright, who eventually levelled the try count for a half-time tie.

Several times the Barton back division had time to run at an open field, but cover tackling ensured nothing came of an ever-present threat. By contrast, Bloxwich never moved the ball out beyond the inside centre and looked a little one-dimensional in their attack play.

As the Bloxwich forwards adopted a tighter 'pick and go' and 'pass back inside' strategy, the game began to turn in their favour – a play evident in previous games. This steady pressure eventually gave Adam Bowater the penalty opportunity to take the lead for the visitors for the first time.

With ten minutes left, Bowater added a try for Bloxwich, but the conversion was ruled wide in a split decision by the touch judges. This heralded a flurry of attacking rugby by Barton, coming within inches of scoring as intense pressure failed to gain the braveheart Bloxwich defence.

Intense pressure led to a Barton penalty, 10 metres out in front of the posts. In a curious decision, instead of taking an easy three points and a certain bonus point, they opted for a quick tap penalty, ignored a four man overlap and were smothered by an eager defence.

Pressure key as late tries lift Aldridge

STOURPORT 5 ALDRIDGE 32

Aldridge always looked the team most likely to win this encounter but it took them a long time before they started to make their dominance pay.

They'd started off well enough and after resisting the home side's initial flourish from the kick off, the forwards took one against the head and then swiftly fell blind side winger Adam Reed who made good ground to score in the corner.

This was consolidated with a penalty from scrum-half Chris Jones five minutes later. Despite having most of the possession and the territory there was a lack of incisiveness about the visitors' play and it was not until midway through the second half that, with a flurry of three tries within five minutes, they finally put the match to rest.

Jones went over close to the posts after the forwards had won a scrum against the head. A couple of minutes later, a good break by flanker Ben Pittam released Reed, who still had a lot to do before getting his second score of the afternoon.

Then Jones clinched the bonus point with his second touchdown – in the corner following up some interplay between flanker Richard Tipton and No10 Nick Raybould.

With the home side's resolve rapidly dissolving from this onslaught, Aldridge pack once more drove on, prop Alex Reed got to the line, slipped the ball to No8 Terry Gibbs who touched down close to the posts.

Jones converted two. Some over elaboration and a dropped pass at the end was seized upon by Stourport full-back Mark Farrell who ran the length of the field for a consolation try.

BLOXWICH UTD

Two-goal United fall to Torpoint

BLOXWICH UNITED 2 TORPOINT ATHLETIC 3

The Red Lions went out of the Carlsberg F.A Vase after surrendering a two goal lead against Cornish side Torpoint.

The home side started the game well and took the lead in the 12th minute when Gary Barton headed home from an Adam Simkiss corner. Torpoint should have equalised minutes later but their forward shot wide when clean through.

Bloxwich missed a great chance to double the lead when Leon Taylor shot straight at the keeper after he robbed a defender of possession in the 26th minute before Tony Simkiss made an excellent save to deny Torpoint and keep Bloxwich in front late in the first half.

Good play in midfield between Carl Morris and Lewis Perry early in the second half enabled Taylor

Tough Walsall cling on to win by single point

A sudden overnight frost meant that Walsall were forced to postpone another league match – the fifth so far this season. They travel to play Halesonians this Saturday, and will now most probably be involved in regular league games until the end of the season.

The weather improved enough for some important junior matches played on Sunday.

WALSALL 8 LICHFIELD 7 U17S

Walsall again booked their place in the County Cup final with a thrilling match against Lichfield on Sunday. This was a tense game from start to finish.

Ben Tipson opened the scoring for Walsall with a well struck penalty 30 metres out.

Both teams then set about trying to control the game, but neither could get the upper hand leaving the score at 3-0 to the home side at half time.

Walsall then gave themselves a little breathing space when Max Hughes and Seb Green linked well with Hughes finally going over for the try.

A brilliant solo effort by Lichfield's Maxwell-Keys saw him dive over for a try in the corner which he then converted from the touchline bringing the score to 8-7.

This proved to be the final score, as the teams locked horns for the final minutes, but neither were able to penetrate

some great defending. Walsall will now face Wolverhampton in a repeat of last year's final, which will be played at Stafford Rugby Club on Sunday, February 13, 1.30pm kick-off. Last year it ended with Walsall losing 17-12.

Last Sunday's win over Lichfield also puts Walsall into the national knockout competition as Staffordshire representatives.

STAFFORD 0 WALSALL 30 U15S

Walsall travelled to Stafford for their first match in ten weeks to face a team which had beaten them on the previous eight occasions. But the visitors produced a superb performance, and at times, completely outplayed a strong Stafford team.

Although facing a bigger pack, Walsall managed to turn the ball over and run it wide whenever possible. The hosts were outpaced by the speed and agility of Walsall backs, who showed great support play.

The home team made several breaks, but thanks to some fearless tackling could not reach the Walsall line. T

Try scorers were Rory Newall (2), Ummar Kasjee (2) Connor Muldowney and Lewis Easthope. Rory Newall, as well as scoring two good tries, showed some sparkling running skills, while Zach Bland was always keen to set a fine example in the forward battles.



Max Hughes goes over for Walsall's try against Lichfield.

WILLENHALL TOWN

Sub's cracker fails to save Town's battlers

CAUSEWAY 3 WILLENHALL TOWN 1

Causeway United climbed up to fourth in the Midland Alliance following this win over Willenhall.

The visitors found themselves under pressure straight from the kick-off as they conceded a penalty after just six minutes when Causeway striker Danny Jones was floored by Matthew Dorgan.

Aaron Lloyd's spot-kick was denied by visiting keeper Liam Flynn, who guided the ball around the post and out for a corner.

However, from the resulting corner, the ball found Jones at the far post and he forced it home. The Willenhall management were then forced into a double change, because of injuries, with Craig Oldfield and Dean Williams replacing Dorgan and Jamie Fisher.

United found visiting keeper Flynn in fine form as he denied efforts from Lloyd, Ben Stretton and Jones in what was a one-sided first half.

And Lloyd could only watch in disbelief as his close-range header was cleared off the line by Dan Grizzle on 26 minutes.

At the other end, keeper Todd Henderson was rarely troubled, although his services were called upon two minutes before the break when he was tested by Willenhall captain Mitch Fellows who was denied a full-stretch.



Danny Jones puts Causeway in front from a corner

Within 14 seconds of the restart, a Ricky Nicholls through ball again found Fellows, whose lighting strike was inches wide of the home goal.

It was clear that the Lockmen were up for the fight as they came out a very different side.

Four minutes later, with United under pressure, substitute Williams intercepted a Sam Beasley back-pass and, from the edge of the box, he beat Henderson with a superb curling effort.

The game became an end-to-end affair with the visitors almost taking the lead when, on 65 minutes, a Tobias Salmon through ball found Fellows. His shot, however, beat Henderson but flashed past the post.

The visitors were punished, two minutes later, when United's Stretton brought the home fans to their feet with a thunderous strike which gave Flynn little chance.

Now back in front, United pressed forward and Jones was unfortunate to see his close-range effort forced wide by Andre Calder following a good solo run from the halfway line.

The game was put to bed, 13 minutes from time, when a cross from the left found its way into a packed Willenhall area, and the ball was scrambled home by Will Tibbetts.

to break clear, but his shot went past the post and into the side netting. Richard Joyce and Karl Edwards both went close and John Freeman forced a good save from the visiting keeper as Bloxwich looked to double their lead midway through the half.

Leon Taylor headed home the second from a John Walker cross on 65 minutes as Bloxwich looked to be moving into the next round.

Torpoint were handed a lifeline with just 12 minutes left, as they broke away to score, and equalised in the 84th minute from a dubious penalty when Walker was adjudged to have handled in the box.

The game looked to be heading for a replay until Torpoint broke away and snatched the winner in the last minute to complete a remarkable comeback and move into the next round.

PELSALL VILLA

Villa crash out as unlucky deflection decides cup tie

Les James Memorial Challenge Cup

An own goal after 22 minutes was enough to decide this cup tie. But make no mistake, the first division promotion hopefuls were well worth the victory.

Villa won a left wing corner after just two minutes, the ball was delivered into the box and a scramble developed, four shots were charged down and the ball was finally hacked clear.

On nine minutes, a free kick on the right was played across the face of the Villa box to find Tom Elder, and his low drive well taken by Chris Collins.

Elliot Nash won a left wing corner in the 16th minute and Karl Hooper powered a header over.

Back came Villa with a superb move started by Andrew Bentley, who found Jon Little. He played the ball inside to Scott Chapman, who found Bentley again, and a neat ball set up Sam Collins to hit a first time effort inches wide.

On 22 minutes, Nash raced away on the left, cut inside, and his low cross was turned into his own net off the shin of a defender.

The goal unsettled Villa and a minute later Josh Ferran raced on to a ball over the top, and Collins saved Villa with a brave full length save.

With 32 minutes gone, Nash

JUNIORS

BUSH SCORPIONS 2 WYRALY TIGERS 2 U10S

The Tigers started well passing the ball between themselves, threatening the Scorpions but not quite able to press home in the final quarter of the pitch, though a quick corner saw the Tigers bounce into the lead from an excellent header.

This was short lived as the Scorpions made a few breaks themselves and a first half goal from Ben Southall assisted by Regan Stephens saw them creep level.

A quick throw from Taylor Evans saw Regan take a long shot on goal and beat the keeper.

Another corner saw yet another great header into the back of the Scorpions' net and the match finished all square.

BUSH SCORPIONS 0 SHIRE OAK PANTHERS 2 U10S

A much-anticipated match between the top two of the league saw a hotly fought match.

Much of the first half was in the Scorpions' half with some fine defending against constant attacks from the Panthers.

The defenders kept knocking the Panthers back but at some cost. They carried injuries into the second half and the visitors continued where they left off.

Some fine runs down each wing and great crosses with good finishing touches put the defence under pressure and two goals were conceded.

The Scorpions tried to fight back, but got held up in midfield and rarely put pressure on the Panthers defence.

It was a very good performance by the Panthers against a spirited defence.

Man of the Match was awarded to Callum Thomas who seemed to have been in more than two

EARLSWOOD TOWN 1 PELSALL VILLA 0

raced into the right of the box, and Collins made a superb full length save.

After 33 minutes, Bentley's left wing free kick was half cleared to Ryan Williams 25 yards out and he sent a first time effort inches wide.

Back came Town, with Michael Taylor racing on to a through ball on the right of the box only to roll a cross shot wide on 38 minutes. Four minutes later he was clear again, this time Collins making a great save at his feet.

Raced

Villa had the last chance just before half time. Mark Woodbridge raced on to a long ball over the top, and as Kenny Sanders raced to meet him he fired just wide.

At the start of the second half a left wing free kick found Ben Judd, who powered a header over the Villa bar.

Darryl Lewin made space on the right, crossed to the far post to find Taylor who set up Ferran to fire wide.

On the hour mark Taylor crossed from wide on the right, but Collins saved easily from Nash.

Five minutes later it was Nash who put Taylor in on goal, Collins

again standing tall to make another great save.

In the 70th minute a central free kick found Ferran, and his rising drive well held by Collins.

On 79 minutes, Taylor almost sewed the game up for the home side. He raced onto a through ball, his shot cannoned off Collins and was cleared off the line by the alert Littler.

Nash raced clear on the left on 86 minutes, cut inside only to be foiled again by the heroic keeper.

Three minutes later Tom Elder raced into the Villa half, played a neat 1-2 with Taylor, raced into the box, but again Collins was equal to the task and made another great save.

They changed the route right on time, with Paul Longthorn hitting a long range effort that the keeper saved easily.

Villa keeper Chris Collins was the star of the show and was only beaten once when a cruel deflection rolled past him on 22 minutes. Villa huffed and puffed but never really looked like making the all important breakthrough.

With Alveston winning, Villa dropped into the bottom two, so really need a result next Saturday at Coventry Copsewood to halt the run of 10 consecutive defeats.

Bill Shaw.

matches and well-deserved the recognition this week.

SHIRE OAK SHARKS 2 SPORTSCO SAINTS 2 U16S

An end to end game played in a great spirit ended in a draw.

Sharks twice came from behind with goals from Callum Watkins and Kieran Williams and debutants Brett Wilson and Martin Jones had good games.

Sharks' man of the match was Teji Sandhu for a fantastically energetic performance up and down the left wing.

SHIRE OAK SWIFTS 3 CRESSWELL WANDERERS 2 U11S

Swifts looked prepared and strong against Cresswell, and good passing was shown by Tom Lloyd and Josh Bechler.

A superb pass by James Boden saw Greg Clark score the first goal for the Swifts. With some good team work, Conor Daniel made a fine pass which resulted in Clark scoring his second.

Cresswell came out stronger in the second half, and Kyle Dyke scored.

Sam Easton and George Congreves fought hard in defence, but again Kyle Dyke managed to score a second goal for Cresswell.

Bailey Sims performed some great saves for the Swifts, who seemed to be getting on top again.

Swifts' Sam Hout had a near miss, but came back with a great goal, putting Swifts ahead again. Fantastic game and some amazing football was shown by both sides in this well fought match, but it was Swifts who came out on top.

Man of the match for the victorious home side was Greg Clark.

SPORT

LEISURE

LEISURE

Four-star

AVFC on

way up

way up

AVFC 06 moved comfortably into mid-table in the Walsall Monday 6 a side league by beating French and Dean Saunders 4-0.

The Underdogs are well placed in division one after John Simkiss led them home 6-2 against FC Oldhouse.

In division two, The Swifts flew home 9-0 against Pelsall Villa as Mason Cooke was in tasty form, and Miami Dolphins beat Trotters FC 5-3.

Singhs Six kept the pressure on in the Walsall Thursday title race as they beat Mac Massive 5-1, while it was 2-2 between Sallyjodder and Alderfield.

No doubt about the headline makers in division one as Werder Beermen humbled Aldridge Athletic 14-0.

Red Admiral had a fine 7-4 win over Bath Street in division two.

In the Wolverhampton Monday league Hardy Athletic saw off 187FC 5-1, while bottom team Sparkys R Us picked up a first win. Nathan Ainge starred in a 4-1 win over Four Fortuna.

Plenty of draws around in the Tuesday league, Badger Boys and Coneygreves sharing a goal apiece while four goals were halved as the games between The New Inn and Swan Village Crew and The Legends ended all square.

SPORTING

KHALSA

Unlucky

10 men

WEST MIDLAND REGIONAL LEAGUE

SPORTING KHALSA 1 WARSTONES 2

In a game of few chances, Khalsa were unlucky to lose a game where they dominated the play, even with 10 men, for 40 minutes of the game.

Shortly after half time Warstones got the breakthrough. A quick free kick was played into Nathan Jackson who found the net.

Scott Sandland was sent off in the 50th minute for his second yellow card. But Khalsa started to put pressure on Warstones and got the equaliser through Fazul Islam after 65 minutes.

Khalsa could not break down the visitors' defence and in the last minute Laing scored a penalty after Adam Shakespeare upended Jackson in the box.

How Saddlers fared against Exeter

Man of the Match: Julian Gray

His talent has never been in question but he has rarely played to his potential this season – yet when he is in this mood he's almost unstoppable. Grabbed his fourth goal of the season. 8/10

Jimmy Walker:

A welcome return for the veteran despite not keeping a clean sheet. He made a fine penalty save late on to prove there's life in his old bones. 7/10

Darryl Westlake: Couldn't build on last week's solid performance. He was caught out for the second goal but is young and is still learning. 5/10

Manny Smith: Allowed Cureton to

escape a couple of times and was relieved to see the striker miss. He looked more solid than in recent weeks. 6/10

Andy Butler: Put his body on the line more than once. Learnt from his mistake against Huddersfield to play some fine long passes and added to the attack at the death. 7/10

Aaron Lescott: Has improved under Smith and linked up with Gray well, especially in the first half. Pulled off a couple of fine tackles. 6/10

Richard Taundry: Should have scored when he volleyed wide after the break but added more fight to the team. 6/10

Matt Gill: Excelled in the middle in a

fine debut and ran Gray close to man of the match. Demonstrated what the Saddlers have been missing this season with a gritty display in which he did the little things right. 8/10

Matt Richards: Benefitted from Gill's presence and was allowed to go forward with more regularity. Seemed reluctant to pull the trigger. 7/10

Alex Nicholls: Found space with ease but failed to produce the killer touch yet again. A frustrating afternoon for the striker. 6/10

Jon Macken: Came close in the first half and will be disappointed some of the chances didn't fall to him. 7/10

BOXING

Gethin is facing months out

Boxer Martin Gethin could face up to another four months out of the ring after an operation on his back was cancelled.

The English lightweight champion is looking to step up to British title contention for his next fight but may not be ready to return to action before May.

Gethin, from Walsall, was due to go under the knife last week but has instead been referred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham for keyhole surgery, which has a six to eight week

waiting list. The flip side is the 27-year-old will recover quicker, in a fortnight according to specialists, and is already able to do light training and pad work.

But another six weeks of full training when he gets the all-clear means it could be late spring before he can fight again, with the British title already due to be contested between champion Gavin Rees and John Watson in Wales on February 12.

Prizefighter winner Ryan Brawley was offered the shot but

is instead going for the vacant Scottish light welterweight title against Stuart Green in Glasgow. That opened the door for Watson to have a rematch.

●Walsall's Danny Clews made his debut at light middleweight ahead of schedule.

The Walsall Wood amateur took on Tamworth's wily veteran Matt Seawright in a six-rounder. Seawright didn't make it easy for the 22-year-old new-boy, but Clews used his skills to win by two rounds 58-56.

RUSHALL OLYMPIC

Pics complete a victory double over rivals Sutton

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN 1 RUSHALL OLYMPIC 2

Rushall Olympic completed a fine double over neighbours and arch-rivals Sutton Coldfield as the Pics got their play-off hopes firmly back on track by coming back from being a goal behind to claim a fully deserved 2-1 victory at Coles Lane.

The hosts were quickly on the offensive from the outset, looking to avenge the three goal defeat in the reverse fixture on New Years Day and in only the second minute Rushall 'keeper Chris Gemmell pulled off a great point-blank save to deny Craig Marshall.

On 17 minutes Olympic's custodian again came to his colleagues rescue, this time to save low down from Mark Bellingham before gathering safely at the second attempt.

Four minutes later a vocal penalty appeal rang out from within the confines of the visitor's 18-yard box as Anthony Maguire stooped to clear a centre from the right flank, however the referee was having none of it.

Just as Rushall appeared to have weathered the early storm and began to come more into the contest as the first period progressed, in the 26th minute they found themselves a goal adrift.

Unmarked

As a Sutton move broke down the ball was floated back into the box where the totally unmarked Bellingham nodded home from 12 yards, despite the assistant referee appearing about to flag for off-side only to resist the temptation at the last second.

To their immense credit the visitors responded in kind less than two minutes after falling behind as they deservedly restored parity with a well worked goal. As Maguire swung in a deep flag kick from the left towards the far post, Lucan Spittle headed the ball invitingly back across the face of goal and debutant striker Chris Sterling stole in to ruthlessly rifle home an equaliser from close range.

A minute prior to the interval and the industrious Danny Lennon delivered a superb centre from the right by-line to the far post, only to see the in-rushing Danny Ashton just fail to make a positive contact as the ball was diverted for a goal kick. Half-Time.

Sutton Coldfield Town 1 Rushall Olympic 1

Nine minutes into the second period and the Pics struck what turned out to be the killer blow as Chris Morris darted into the penalty area. Despite narrowly missing being hauled down by keeper Karl Lewis, he regained his composure and delivered an inviting centre from the left by-line to the far post where Richard Blythe was on hand to clinically drill home his maiden goal for the club.

On 56 minutes the visitors were again on the offensive when a powerful run by Morris down the right channel saw the front runner cut inside and unleash a shot-cum-centre that stung the hands of 'keeper Lewis, before gathering at the second attempt.

As the game played out to a conclusion the Royals continued to pile on the pressure, but Rushall 'keeper Gemmell remained in fine form to see his side home to an excellent victory. Indeed, with nine minutes remaining he safely gathered Bellingham's looping header while in the 84th minute a venomous first time drive from the edge of the box by Sutton substitute Craig Milligan had to be smartly tipped over. In the first minute of injury time the hosts almost scrambled in a late jockey as they pushed ever forward, only to see the Olympic stopper parry the danger away to yield a corner that was safely defended.



Richard Blythe scores Rushall's second goal to complete a double victory over Sutton Coldfield.

Pictures by Tony Marsh



Ref Sasa Ithringova blows for full-time last night

Sasa has the woman's touch for taking charge

With all the furore over women in football, the appearance of one of the Football League's three female referee's assistants went almost unnoticed at one of the region's non-league grounds last night.

Shrewsbury-based Sasa Ithringova, who was fourth official when in-the-spotlight Sian Massey ran the line at the Shrewsbury v Bury game in November 2009, refereed Rushall Olympic's 2-1 win at Sutton Coldfield Town in the Evo-Stik League First Division South.

Ithringova, who has been officiating for 15 years, knows Massey well and believes Sky may take further action over the comments by Andy Gray and Richard Keys.

The 35-year-old said: "It's sad that there are people who think like that. I'm sure Sky will deal with them further if they think their public image will suffer."

"Sian deserves to be there."

As for last night's game – the second of three in four days for Slovakia-born Ithringova, who was also due to run the line at Hereford-Morecambe on Tuesday – things went smoothly.

"There were a few tackles but nothing malicious," she said. Rushall came from behind to claim the double over Sutton. Mark Bellingham headed Sutton in front in the 26th minute. Chris Sterling equalised two minutes later. Richard Blythe hit the winner nine minutes after the break.

HOCKEY

Ladies let domination slip away

BLOXWICH LADIES 1 WALSALL/ALDRIDGE 2

Bloxwich dominated and controlled the play right from the off. Strong tackles and fantastic passing meant Bloxwich pressured the Wal/Ald defence for sustained periods. However, a quick break from Wal/Aldridge and a clinical finish left them 1-0 up.

This did not effect Bloxwich who continued to pressure the opposition's goal making the defence and goalkeeper work hard to keep them ahead.

Again Wal/Ald scored from a well-taken chance when Bloxwich had found themselves out numbered at the back. Still Bloxwich kept fighting to get the score back and after a disallowed goal eventually Bloxwich found the back of the net.

Attack after attack right until the end did not bring Bloxwich back into the game and Wal/Ald hung on to take the 3 points. A great team performance from Bloxwich.

BLOXWICH 2 LOUGHBROUGH 1

Finally, on the third attempt to play this game the weather held out and Bloxwich travelled to Loughborough University to take on Loughborough town in the National knock out competition.

With several players who had not played together before Blox started slowly and tentatively and Loughborough took advantage quickly taking the lead.

This spurred Bloxwich on and they began to take more and more control of the play and spent the rest of the first half camped in Loughborough's half.

An excellent performance from the Loughborough goalkeeper being the only thing that stopped Bloxwich from leveling the game.

A penalty stroke was awarded to Bloxwich giving them the chance to get back into the game, unfortunately a well-taken stroke hit the post and still Bloxwich couldn't get on the score sheet.

Shortly before half time they did find the back of the net with a fantastic reverse stick flick from Jane straz and Bloxwich were back in the game. After half time Bloxwich came out determined to be going through to the next round of the competition and a great strike from H Scott took them into the lead.

Bloxwich continued to pressure for the rest of the game and ended up winners with a trip to Spalding in the next round. Great individual and team performances from everyone.

RUGELEY 1 BLOXWICH MENS 1ST 2

Bloxwich travelled to Rugeley facing a tough game, and the first half was just that with both teams not really creating any clear chances.

Bloxwich took the lead in the second half after a solo run from leading goal scorer Adam Baldwin. This then sparked Bloxwich into life and they started to dominate the midfield and put Rugeley under a lot of pressure.

Rugeley then levelled after a lapse in concentration let the right winger run straight behind the Bloxwich defence for a deflection that Anton Cox was unlucky not to save.

The game then became a midfield battle again until Kelton Scott scored from a short corner to restore the lead.



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**CRACKER FAILS
TO SAVE REDS'
BATTLERS**
Page 58

**PICS ENJOY
DOUBLE OVER
RIVALS SUTTON**
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NO FAIRYTALE END AS MISERY GOES ON

Smith sure revival will come soon

Dean Smith has insisted he isn't bothered about the growing gap to safety – because Walsall are on the brink of a revival.

The boss is confident the Saddlers will bag the victories which will keep them in touch with the survival pack.

They are nine points from safety at the bottom of the table after just three wins from their last 22 League One games.

But Smith isn't concerned and believes the Saddlers are ready for a comeback.

"It was seven points on Saturday and nine points now, we know the situation we're in," he said.

"If we put in performances like Saturday we will certainly go on a run. You get what you deserve in life and if we keep on putting in the performances with that work ethic we'll go on a run, definitely."

The boss is convinced the Saddlers can survive if they stick to his passing philosophies.

He said: "It was proven on Saturday, if we'd taken our chances we would have won the game. If we don't play football we don't create chances so there's no reason why we can't play football and get out of trouble."

Despite a decent display at Exeter the Saddlers still slumped to a 2-1 defeat after errors at the back.

Slip-ups have cost Walsall this term and Smith is determined to eradicate them.

"I've said I'll address it – I've started to – and there were certainly less mistakes on Saturday," he said.

Nicholl adding his experience

Chris Nicholl is back at Walsall after answering rookie boss Dean Smith's call to arms.

The former Saddlers manager, who took them to promotion from the old Division Three in 1995, has been invited by Smith to help their safety bid.

He watched as Walsall lost 2-1 at Exeter on Saturday, Smith's first game since being appointed boss until the end of the season. It left the Saddlers nine points from safety and bottom of League One.

Smith confirmed Nicholl's involvement and admitted he wanted to draw on the former boss' experience.

He said: "Chris is a friend of mine and a man of great knowledge whose views I value. I asked him to come and watch and give me his thoughts."

"We had chat at half-time and a chat afterwards. He's been in this position as manager of the club. I've got a lot of time for Chris which is why I asked him to come along." Nicholl's role – and the length of it – is yet to be determined but he offers an extra pair of eyes and ears for Smith who is in his first post as a full-time manager.

League Table																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				
Brighton	24	8	4	0	26	9	5	3	4	16	10	46				
Bournemouth	26	10	1	2	32	10	2	6	5	14	17	43				
Huddersfield	26	8	3	3	22	12	4	1	6	20	20	43				
Southampton	25	7	4	3	23	9	5	1	5	20	13	41				
Peterborough	24	9	1	3	36	25	3	2	6	14	21	39				
Mk Dons	26	8	2	2	21	12	3	1	9	13	25	39				
Charlton	24	6	3	3	15	14	4	5	3	26	20	38				
Oldham	24	6	5	2	20	17	4	3	4	16	17	38				
Rochdale	25	4	6	2	19	15	5	3	5	16	15	36				
Colchester	23	5	6	2	21	20	3	5	2	11	11	35				
Carlisle	23	6	4	3	22	13	3	3	4	12	11	34				
Sheff Wed	24	6	3	3	18	9	4	1	7	18	19	34				
Exeter	25	6	4	2	24	17	3	3	7	13	26	34				
Hartlepool	24	4	2	4	17	21	5	4	5	9	13	33				
Plymouth	27	5	4	5	17	19	4	2	7	17	24	33				
Brentford	25	4	3	4	12	15	5	2	7	17	17	32				
Leyton Orient	23	6	2	2	19	10	2	5	6	17	24	31				
North County	23	7	0	5	17	12	2	3	6	13	18	30				
Tranmere	24	5	3	5	17	19	3	2	6	12	18	29				
Swindon	25	5	3	5	16	15	2	3	2	21	26	28				
Bristol Rovers	25	4	4	4	14	18	2	5	6	16	28	27				
Yeovil	24	4	2	5	14	17	3	3	7	10	20	26				
Day & Red	24	2	4	5	10	15	2	2	8	14	24	21				
WALSALL	25	3	0	8	12	23	2	4	8	15	27	19				

The Walsall Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Shropshire. Thursday, January, 27, 2011.

EXETER 2 WALSALL 1

Fairytales have happy endings but it seems Walsall's salvation is unlikely to come – despite their new white knight.

The hard-luck stories of a disastrous season aren't the typical bedtime tales parents tell their children to get them enthused about the Saddlers.

Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Exeter was another example of how the club's story has been blown off course and is desperately trying to be rewritten by new boss Dean Smith.

The storm which has enveloped the Saddlers has landed them in a world which is ruled by a faceless owner who has been seen less than the Wizard of Oz. You half expect to be met at the Banks's Stadium gates by a man dressed in green screeching 'no-one gets in to see Jeff, not nobody, not no how'.

The same goes for a chief executive who is rapidly trying to improve his reputation after a stuttering start.

But, for every villain of the piece, there is a hero. Smith's rise from trainee to manager is fairytale stuff and now he must lead his trusty band of players to safety, though he can hardly click his boots together and utter 'there's no place like League One'.

Brains, courage and heart are needed if the Saddlers are going to launch a rescue bid. Smith's call to bring in former boss Chris Nicholl as an adviser shows brains and proves the rookie manager isn't afraid to listen to others. Previous chiefs have been too stubborn, or inept, to see what's in front of them but Smith is already clued-up enough to realise he needs an extra pair of eyes and ears.

Nicholl's presence can only benefit a team who need all the help they can get. And there is certainly enough heart in the side, something restored by Smith who has got his charges fighting again.

Attitude

A losing mentality is not one the players or manager are willing to adopt and their attitude was evident on Saturday.

If only they had the courage of their convictions to take the points when they deserve to, if only they could get a result. They need points, not plaudits.

They have improved and have been rightly applauded but the cold fact is they need wins. Performances are worthless if they don't yield points.

Two points from Smith's four games doesn't tell the whole story and it would be unfair to ignore the fact the Saddlers have deserved more.

But the manager knows he will be judged on more than performances. That might have been good enough for the youth team but it isn't for the senior side. Smith can only do so much though. He is not to blame and shouldn't be liable if the worst happens.

The previous manager and the board are the ones who have caused this. They should – and will – be held accountable in May if Smith's efforts prove in vain. He inherited a squad low on confidence who had the football beaten out of them.

A patient, passing, approach has now been adopted and will get results – one only hopes they come quickly. Smith's tactics are admirable and he firmly believes the Saddlers can play their way out of trouble. The one problem is they are nine points from safety at the bottom of League One.

Pundits, bookies and fans already have them relegated and a few more defeats will see the bets paid out. A defeatist attitude won't help the cause and the team's positivity will be rewarded, especially after coming so close at St James' Park.

Julian Gray's bungled fourth goal of the season couldn't salvage a point after defensive slips allowed Richard Duffy and Daniel Nardiello to put the game beyond the Saddlers. The scoreline made a mockery of Walsall's second-half dominance which saw Richard Taundry, debutant Matt Gill and Will Grigg all fail to score. Yet, for all their efforts, the Saddlers were pointless and if the slide continues there's a feeling they won't be in League One next season.



Alex Nicholls being put under pressure.



Will Grigg negotiating his way through two Exeter defenders.



Matt Richards getting stuck in against The Grecians.



Jonathan Macken focused on the ball.

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To save money and find the right ticket for you, visit us at nxwestmidlands.co.uk for a full range of ticket and Travelcard options. You can also visit your local travel shop or one of our 200 Travelcard agents in the West Midlands and Black Country area.

LOVE YOUR TRAVEL SHOPS

National Express West Midlands have six travel shops which cover the West Midlands, Black Country and Coventry area; Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Solihull, Walsall, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton.

Our travel shops sell a wide range of Travelcards for adults, students and school children. So, take a visit to your local travel shop for up-to-date travel information and bus timetables.

Your nearest travel shop is in Walsall, and can be found in the Bus Station, St Paul's Street, where the manager Gina Forknall and her team look forward to meeting you and happily answering any queries you may have.

So drop in today, and Love Your Bus!



LOVE YOUR
NUMBER
51

Your local bus

Just turn up and go with the number 51 – running every 7/8 minutes between Walsall and Birmingham. The 51 offers a connection to Aston University, Birmingham City University, Great Barr, Perry Barr and Newtown.

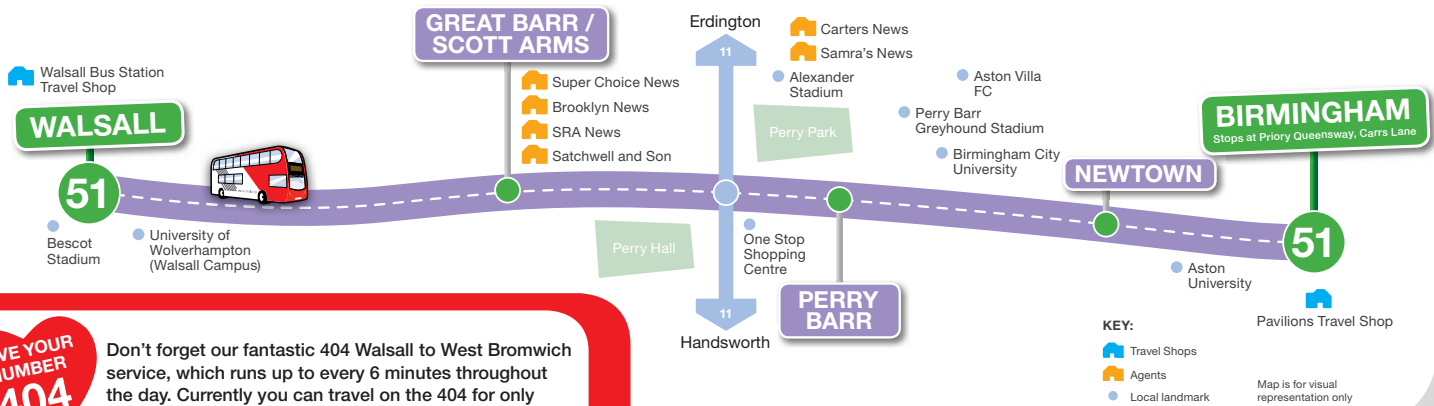
Look out for our new **high frequency green branding**, which will be on all number 51 services in the near future, so you're guaranteed to spot a reliable service to wherever you need to go.

Peak	Daytime			Evening		
Mon-Fri	Mon-Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon-Fri	Sat	Sun
7/8 mins	7/8 mins	8 mins	12 mins	15/30 mins	15/30 mins	20/30 mins

Peak - Mon-Fri 07.30 to 09.30 and 15.30 to 18.00

Daytime - Mon-Fri 09.30 to 15.30, Sat 09.00 to 18.00, Sun 10.00 to 18.00

Evening - 18.00 to the end of the service



LOVE YOUR
NUMBER
404

Don't forget our fantastic 404 Walsall to West Bromwich service, which runs up to every 6 minutes throughout the day. Currently you can travel on the 404 for only £2 return (normal price £3.60).

LOVE
YOUR NEW
WEBSITE

Did you know that you can now gain service updates, route planners and diversion notices at the click of a button? Prior to Christmas, National Express West Midlands launched a brand new website providing the most up-to-date and easily accessible travel news in the region.

The new website is also accessible from mobile phones for the first time and focuses on making travel easier, including:

- Service updates for major incidents such as road closures or snow diversions
- A route planner for people uncertain of their bus route
- Simple service maps showing the location of your nearest bus stop
- Travel news accessible from mobile phones while 'on the go'

Following your first visit it will remember which website you require – West Midlands, Coventry or Metro – and tailor the information to suit you. Selecting and purchasing tickets has also been made quicker and easier by reducing the amount of pages you have to click through.

So go on, get online today at nxwestmidlands.co.uk and we're sure you'll love your new website as much as we do!



Safer Travel on National Express West Midlands



Crime on and around the West Midlands bus network has plummeted by 19% over the last year, new figures from the Safer Travel partnership reveal.

Initiatives such as CCTV installation on buses, and spot checks with inspectors and West Midlands Police has led to a 54.5% reduction in crime on and around the region's bus network over the last three years. This reduction has shown just how much the team's operations expertise has grown since its successful launch five years ago.

Safer Travel, a partnership between National Express West Midlands and West Midlands Police have two full-time teams that work together to make bus journeys even safer by deterring crime and anti-social behaviour.

Inspector Cate Webb-Jones, head of the Safer Travel Police Team, said: "Increasing trust and confidence is one of our main objectives and aim for every commuter to travel in a safe environment, free from anti-social behaviour and crime."

The success of Safer Travel operations rely on community intelligence, and encourage members of the public to speak to the team and provide them with information about matters such as drugs, misuse and criminal damage.

You can contact Safer Travel or provide information by visiting www.safertravel.info.



**The National Express
West Midlands Safer Travel Team**
Left to right, Tony Dallison, Carl Gauntlett and Terry Lerner

nxwestmidlands.co.uk
mobile: nxbus.mobi



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